

History | Mid-Hudson Library System

Mission Statement | Mid-Hudson Library System acts to insure the public's rights to free access, facilitate economical resource sharing, and promote professional library services while working in partnerships with the independent public and free association libraries in the designated service region.

1959

The Mid-Hudson Library System was created in 1959 by the State of New York to:

- Provide resource sharing
- Improve level of library service

Legal Operational Requirements

- Board needs to meet at least six times/year
- Must submit a plan of service to the State
- Must submit an annual budget to the State
- Must have a Director with eight years of professional experience
- Must have at least three certified librarians

Education Law Section 255

Legal Service Requirements

- **Educ L sec 255** - In short, the system must work and operate through the participating libraries in effecting expanded and improved library service in the area
- **Educ L sec 272 g** - No plan shall be approved unless it provides for a method by which participating libraries are obligated to permit the loan of books and material among members of the system for use on the same basis permitted by the library which owns or controls them.
- **NYCRR 90.1** - Each system shall provide a means of location of materials added in the libraries of the system.
- Provide for the coordination of the reference and interlibrary loan programs and functions of the public library system.

During the 1960's

- Worked to convince libraries to join the system
- Began collecting holdings of members
- Developed programs to assist libraries in improving their collections

During the 1970's

- Began Interlibrary Loan
- Offer material support to libraries in terms of McNaughton Plans for lease of popular books, special projects grants to help libraries strengthen their collections, and cataloging and processing support
- Consultation on collection development, weeding, and programming
- Built 16mm film collection, art prints and filmstrip

During the 1980's

- Began OCLC verification for national ILL
- Began Outreach services such as Literacy, Job information
- Built video collections and expanded film collections.
- Introduced micro computers to libraries
- Increased CE offerings

During the 1990's

- Began implementing automated circulation system
- Introduced Internet to libraries

Currently

- All libraries part of the automated circulation system
- Encouraging libraries to bring their budgets to a public vote
- Assisting libraries in construction planning and fundraising

Current Plan

- Resource Sharing including Delivery, ILL, and Remote Access to Databases
- Access to Library Holding including managing the Integrated Library System (Millennium)
- Special Client Needs including Outreach Populations, Youth Services
- Space Needs including Construction funding and space planning
- Continuing Education including Trustee workshops
- Awareness and Advocacy including helping libraries with votes, design services, marketing
- Communication Among Member Libraries including the MHLS bulletin and Across the Board Newsletter, the Directors Association and Advisory committees
- Cooperative Efforts with Other Systems including working with the SENYLRC
- Central Library including helping libraries provide reference services to their patrons
- Direct Access including support for chartering and organization development