

Empowering Public Libraries To Be Community Science Resource Centers

A Guide for State Library Agencies

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MSL
MAINE STATE LIBRARY



**Cornerstones
of Science**
awakening curiosity, enriching lives

Cornerstones of Science: Over A Decade of Lessons Learned

- **Collaboration With State Library Agencies Increases Confidence Levels of Public Libraries**
- **Not All Libraries are Created Equal In Capacities and Infrastructure**
- **STEM Anxiety by both Librarian and the Public Yet There Is A Demand For These Experiences and Resources**
- **Where There Is A Vision, A Will, There Is A Way**
- **Science Programs Fills The Time Slot, If I Can Find Them**
- **Librarianship is in flux from repository of knowledge to community hubs of engagement**

Sustaining Science Literacy In Public Libraries

Core Element #1 - External Support (both financial and from scientific community)

Core Element #2 – Innovative Library Director

Core Element #3 – STEM Librarian

Core Element #4 – Create Public Demand For Science Within
Library

Core Element #5 – Partnership, Support and Best Practices
Between Public Libraries and their State Library
Agency

End Goals

1. A replicable model, framework and guide for state library agencies to help their public libraries build their abilities and capacities to sustain their own science literacy efforts to successfully transform their environments from repositories of knowledge to a creation of knowledge and community hubs of engagement
2. Empower library directors and staff to fully integrate science literacy within their daily operations at levels appropriate for them.
3. Create durable, strategic community partnerships with both formal and informal science providers that extend and expand library staff abilities
4. A national online clearinghouse that provides library staff ongoing access and opportunity to a continuum of programs, resources and experiences such that people, of all ages, can achieve science literacy