



METRO IN A MINUTE

Metropolitan New York Library Council

Four Decades of Service to New York's Libraries

In 1964, the Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO) was chartered by the New York Board of Regents to “promote and facilitate utilization of existing resources and to develop additional library services in the New York metropolitan area.” Today, with 250 member organizations throughout New York City and Westchester County, METRO is the largest of New York State’s nine reference and research library resource systems, and one of the largest library service organizations in the world.

Services and Support That Make a Difference

METRO is committed to helping our member libraries — including academic, school, public, and special libraries — deliver their services more effectively and participate in a dynamic regional service network. We provide a forum for libraries to share resources and best practices, while promoting professional development and advocacy. We also offer an individual membership program that connects individual librarians, archivists, students, and others to networking opportunities, dynamic learning resources, and other benefits.

Our core services are highlighted below. Visit our website (www.metro.org) to learn more.

Professional Development

Our professional development programs focus on technology, collection maintenance, library management, staff development, and other key topics. Courses are held at METRO’s training center in Manhattan and are available online. You can download METRO’s latest professional development catalogue from our website. For more information, contact Training Coordinator **Aleksi Merilainen** at (212) 228-2320 ext. 19 or amerilainen@metro.org.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

METRO hosts Special Interest Groups where members of the library community join together to address the challenges libraries face today and advance their professional development. SIGs are open to METRO members and other interested individuals. Current METRO SIGS include: Digitization; Green Librarianship; Library 2.0; Library Assistants and Support Staff; and many others. Contact **Linda Braun** at lbraun@metro.org for more information.

Digitization and Emerging Technologies

METRO’s state-of-the-art services and resources help our members stay current in an ever-changing technological landscape.

In the digitization arena, METRO is developing Digital METRO New York — a collaboration with our member libraries in which METRO will launch a website featuring digitized collections that reflect the cultural heritage of New York City and Westchester County. METRO also hosts symposiums and workshops on digitization of library collections, sponsors vendor showcases, provides startup grants for digitization projects, and encourages our more “digitally ready” members to share their expertise.

METRO’s emerging technologies services include workshops, webinars, tutorials on our website, special events, *techMETRO* (a blog featuring tech-related news and resources of interest to the library world), and *digitech* (a monthly email series). For more information, contact Emerging Technologies Manager, **Jason Kucsma** at (212) 228-2320, ext. 23 or jkucsma@metro.org.

Expanded Access Services

METRO's Delivery Service enables our members to share materials and resources quickly and efficiently. We also provide a referral card system to help libraries share resources and increase access to research materials for their users. In addition, our consortial purchasing program enables our members to buy electronic resources and databases at major discounts. For details on these services, contact Special Projects Manager **Robert Schmidt** at (212) 228-2320, ext.14. or rschmidt@metro.org.

Documentary Heritage Program (DHP)

METRO's DHP provides a subcontract to a member library or archive to survey under-documented communities in New York City and Westchester County. The DHP helps to protect and expand access to important archival holdings that reflect the New York metropolitan area's rich culture and history. For more information, contact Executive Director **Dottie Hiebing** at (212) 228-2320, ext.10 or dhiebing@metro.org.

Hospital Library Services Program (HLSP)

Currently, 64 hospital and medical center libraries participate in METRO's HLSP. METRO annually awards collection development and technology

grants to hospital and medical center libraries and subsidizes medical-related interlibrary loans. To learn more, contact HLSP Manager **Joan Napolitano** at (212) 228-2320 ext.10 or jnapolitano@metro.org.

Advocacy

METRO advocates with government leaders in New York State and at the federal level to support government funding of libraries and library systems. METRO's staff also reaches out to corporate funders and civic leaders to support METRO members and the communities they serve.

Grants

METRO administers grants to support many critical library programs and services. Some of these grant programs change from year to year. For details, visit our website.

Strategic Planning

In 2007, METRO launched a strategic planning initiative to meet our members' evolving needs and keep pace with professional and technological trends that affect how libraries do business. See our website for updates.

Join METRO!

METRO offers both library memberships and individual memberships. Under our library membership program, dues are assessed on a sliding scale based on the library member's budget. Under myMETRO, our individual membership program, librarians, archivists, information professionals, students, retirees, and others enjoy access to a variety of METRO services plus opportunities to join a strong network of colleagues. Contact Member Services Manager **Tom Nielsen** at (212) 228-2320, ext.16 or t Nielsen@metro.org to learn more.



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