Library Management Network, Inc.
Long Range Plan
2014-2019

Established:	1995
Revised:	October 1997
Revised:	June 1998
Revised:	September 2005
Revised:	October 2009
Revised:	April 2014

Preface

The purpose of Library Management Network, Inc., hereafter referred to as "LMN," is to provide shared library automation services by maintaining a common database to assist member libraries in providing information services to their communities. LMN is a multitype library consortium currently serving member libraries in North Alabama. Member libraries include the following:

Gadsden State Community College

Northeast Alabama Community College

Northwest Shoals community College

Scottsboro Public Library

Snead State Community College

Because the service areas of member libraries are predominately rural (see ADDENDUM), the resources and services shared through LMN are extremely beneficial in providing a high quality of service to the patrons of member libraries. Founded in February 1983, Library Management Network, Inc. is headquartered in Decatur, Alabama.

Plan Development and Analysis

The purpose of the Long Range Plan is to provide a focused, cohesive direction for the network. The objectives of this plan are projected for five (5) years. This planning document will be reviewed as needed by the LMN Board of Directors, hereafter referred to as the "Board," in order to assess that the objectives have been achieved.

In February 2014, the LMN President appointed a committee consisting of three LMN Board members for the purpose of updating LMN's long range plan. The committee issued an electronic survey to LMN members concerning LMN's strengths and weaknesses. The committee used the responses to the survey as one tool to provide direction for the long-range plan.

Strengths of the Consortium

- The spirit of cooperation is the basis of LMN's strengths.

- Because LMN is a multitype library consortium, library patrons have access to various types of resources through interlibrary loan.

- Member libraries share various ideas and resources at Board of Directors meetings.

- Content enrichment enhances the online catalog with cover images, summaries and annotations, table of contents, and first chapters.

- The LMN Coordinator maintains a high level of communication with the members of the LMN Board of Directors as well as with other personnel of member libraries and provides a high level of technical support to LMN members.

- The LMN Coordinator provides site visits to LMN members.

- The LMN Board of Directors officers maintain a high level of communication with other Board of Directors members and library personnel.

Challenges of the Consortium

- Over the last few years, membership in LMN has decreased from eleven to five member libraries. Informal surveys of withdrawing members saw that cost is the primary factor.

- The success of the consortium is affected when members of the Board of Directors do not attend Board of Directors meetings and when library personnel do not attend training sessions/workshops on a regular basis.

- Identify members' needs and pursue grants.

Goals and Objectives

Goal I: Provide automation services

Objective A: Maintain networking connectivity

    Action 1: Maintain T1 or better telecommunications

    Action 2: Maintain internet service provider

Objective B: Maintain shared database

    Action 1: Maintain library automation software including content enrichment

    Action 2: Maintain OCLC for bibliographic and authority records

Objective C: Maintain central site equipment

    Action 1: Maintain networking equipment

    Action 2: Add wireless capability

    Action 3: Invest in video and teleconferencing capabilities

Objective D: Maintain and improve technology to support members' needs

    Action 1: Maintain webpages for members

    Action 2: Maintain consortium's documents page and website

    Action 3: Maintain email services: server, software (SPAM and virus)

Goal II: Assure financial stability

Objective A: Secure sources of external funding

    Action 1: Apply for eRate

    Action 2: Seek grant opportunities

    Action 3: As technology evolves, investigate the advantages and disadvantages, including fiscal, of the continuation of operating a central site

Objective B: Increase membership

    Action 1: Identify prospective new members

    Action 2: Attend conferences and set up booths

    Action 3: Contact prospective new members through various modes of communication

Objective C: Review expenditures

    Action 1: Review budgetary line items for cost effectiveness

    Action 2: Investigate alternative suppliers/vendors

Goal III: Facilitate member training

Objective A: Provide training opportunities for members

    Action 1: Schedule at least two workshops a year for library personnel (exclusive of Board of Directors meetings)

    Action 2: Create and maintain online tutorials for training

    Action 3: Revise Cataloging Procedural Manual

Goal IV: Provide professional development opportunities for central site personnel

Objective A: Provide Professional development opportunities for the LMN coordinator

    Action 1: Attend various conferences and/or workshops

    Action 2: Provide membership to American Library Association through annual subscription

ADDENDUM: Service Areas of Member Libraries

Member Library	Service Area	Population
Gadsden State Community College	Calhoun County	116,700
	Cherokee County (all except northern sixth)	26,200 (entire county)
	Cleburne County	15,000
	Etowah County	104,00
	St. Clair County (northeastern third)	86,300 (entire county)
Northeast Alabama Community College	DeKalb County	71,000
	Jackson County	53,000
Northwest Shoals Community College	Colbert County	54,400
	Franklin County	31,700
	Lauderdale County	92,700
	Lawrence County	34,300
	Winston County (western portion)	24,500 (entire county)
Scottsboro Public Library	City of Scottsboro	15,000
	Jackson County	53,000
Snead State Community College	Marshall County	95,000
	Blount County (one-half)	78,000 (entire county)
	DeKalb County (one-fourth)	71,000