Timeline History of LMN
1983 - Present

COLOR CODE:
Purple – ILS Vendor
Yellow – Members Added
Red – Members Dropped/Withdrawn
Teal – Personnel Turnover

1983	LMN incorporated on February 7, 1983 as a non-profit organization. Charter Member libraries were Huntsville-Madison County Public Library in Huntsville, Gadsden-Etowah County Public Library in Gadsden and Wheeler Basin Regional Library in Decatur which included Decatur Public, Athens Public, Lawrence County Public, Hartselle Public, Courtland Public, Eva Public, Falkville Public, and Priceville Public. Another member Alabama Library Exchange (ALEX) in Huntsville utilized the resources to provide services for its 40 members. LMN began as housed in the basement inside Huntsville Public Library at 110 Fountain Row, Huntsville, Alabama. Federal grant awarded via the Alabama Public Library Service (APLS) to make the automation project possible by LSCA, Title I funds issued totaling $114,000. After issuing invitations to bid, the LMN Board of Directors selected CLSI based on system performance and cost. Contract signed (6-7-83) with CLSI, Newtonville, MA. The CLSI System 44 was a text-based, integrated software package consisting of Circulation Control, Materials Booking, Book Acquisition, Public Access Cataloger, and Reserve Book Room. There was no public access catalog. LMN began with 20 ports using terminals and multiplexors. Six Huntsville Public employees accompanied the Coordinator (an HPL employee) in performing technical responsibilities of printing notices and changing backup tape. First new members added (12-3-83): Decatur City Schools and Northeast Alabama State Junior College
1984	Member Added: University of North Alabama (UNA) library Member Added: Muscle Shoals Regional Library [including Florence Public, Sheffield Public, Muscle Shoals Public, Helen Keller Public; Leighton Public, Rogersville Public, Killen Public, Lexington Public, Bookmobile program, and Outreach/Homebound program] (8-14-84) Member Added: Calhoun Community College First System Coordinator (an HPL employee): Sue Royer
1985	Federal grant awarded: LSCA funds totaling $51,120. For Telecommunications for Cooperative Automation (Title III) LMN was housed in a new computer room on the 3rd floor of the new building inside Huntsville Public and moved to the new building located at 915 Monroe Street, P. O. Box 443, Huntsville, AL.

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1986	Federal grant awarded: LSCA funds totaling $25,000 for MARC bibliographic records. First Dial-Up Member Added: American Institute Psychotherapy (AIP)
1987	Member dropped due to nonpayment: AIP. MARC bibliographic records purchased from Brodart Hired System Coordinator (2-26-87): Ann Talley (first employee of LMN)
1988	Member Withdrawal: UNA (12-31-88) Member Added: Gadsden State Community College (12-14-88) Hired System Coordinator (3-16-88): Charlotte Moncrief (second employee of LMN)
1989	Member Added: Scottsboro Public (2-10-89) Member Added: Hazel Green High School (5-12-89) Member Added: Athens State College (1-5-89) (notification letter) Bibliofile, a CD-ROM catalog system, was used to access 3,500,000 LC MARC records and 78,000 Audio-Visual MARC records. Hardware for Bibliofile was an IBM PC-XT with 640K memory; software was MS-DOS and floppies. Records were exportable from Bibliofile to CLSI.
1990	Hired First Technician – Jack Drost
1991	After issuing invitations to bid, members provided funding totaling $300,000 to migrate library automation software from CLSI to Data Research (DRA) of St. Louis, MO and signed a contract for Classic. The Classic software was text-based and included these modules: Circulation, cataloging, acquisitions, and a 3rd-party ReportWriter software. Muscle Shoals Regional Library System dissolved. Florence Public, Helen Keller Public, Sheffield Public, and Muscle Shoals Public stayed and all signed individual contracts with LMN directly as members. Items belonging to Leighton, Rogersville, Killen and Lexington were removed from LMN's database.
1992	Federal grant awarded: LSCA funds totaling $29,685 to implement Dial Access at 5 member sites: Gadsden Public, Scottsboro Public, Decatur Public, Florence Public, and Huntsville Public. Hired Cataloger (part-time): Cheryl Scheer Hired Technician: Eddy Johnson
1993	Federal grant awarded: LSCA funds totaling $14,842. To implement Dial Access at 5 additional member sites: Gadsden State College, Calhoun College, Northeast Alabama State, Athens State, Hazel Green School. Member Added: DeKalb County Public (9-20-93)

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1994	Federal grant awarded: LSCA funds totaling $25,000. To implement DRA's DRAnet as a bibliographic utility and Internet Service Provider with a 56K direct circuit to St. Louis. Authority Records purchased and loaded from Blackwell North America Member Added: Snead State Community College (11-30-94)
1995	Federal grant awarded: LSCA funds totaling $12,500. To continue DRA's DRAnet as a bibliographic utility and Internet Service Provider on a 56K direct circuit to St. Louis. Hired Technician: Scott Williams Hired Cataloger (full-time): Julie Christopher
1996	Federal grant awarded: LSCA funds totaling $41,000. To implement Z39.50 client/server and Multinet software allowing and online catalog for the creation of LMN's first home page on the web: www.lmn.lib.al.us Dial Access phone lines and equipment were discontinued. Member withdrew: Huntsville Public Library Hired Cataloger: Brenda Sibley
1997	LMN central office moved to 110 Johnston Street SE, Decatur, Alabama in June. Decatur City Schools owned the old Decatur Utilities building. LMN contracted a lease with DCS and moved into the left side on first floor. LMN began using Alabama Supercomputer for Internet and networking services. Hired Technician: JK Smith Hired Technician: Tim Easley
1998	Federal grant awarded: LSTA funds totaling $75,515. To implement DRA's client/server software, Web2, a Taos module on a WinNT / Hewlett Packard platform. USAC began Erate discount program on voice and data lines from which LMN benefitted. When a member joined, LMN paid for the telephone line in order for the member to have a modem/router data connection. Member Added: Northwest Shoals Community College (9-11-97) Member added: Cullman Public Library
1999	Member added: Oneonta Public Library Hired Cataloger: Julie (Christopher) Flohr
2000	Members began assuming telcom contracts and billing from LMN to the member library for T1 direct dedicated data circuits (previously using 9600). LSTA funds were granted to LMN for Taos Training, Training Equipment, replacement PCs at the central site, and upgrading the Email server. Campus Branch added: GS Anniston. Charges were dropped for internet-only web workstations; only workstations accessing vendor modules had were charged a fee.

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2001	Federal grant awarded: LSTA funds to implement web email server and equipment for training (projector and PC) and to improve networking connectivity (router and switch).
2002	NetLibrary electronic books (eBooks) collections 1 to 10 (2002-2011) were purchased by LMN and members for inclusion in the database. Priceville Public separated from Wheeler Basin Regional Library and LMN.
2003	After issuing RFP to bid, LMN Board of Directors selected Innovative Interfaces, Inc. of CA. Millennium, silver version, was an integrated software package consisting of circulation acquisitions, cataloging, and OPAC. Members provided all the funding totaling $247,300 to migrate from SIRSI/DRA to III. Wheeler Basin Regional Library dissolved. Lawrence County, Athens Public, Hartselle Public stayed with LMN signing individual contracts.
2004	Member Added: Courtland Public (7-8-2004)
2005	Technician left; Technician position was eliminated (10/24/2005) The Coordinator assumed all technical responsibilities Members withdrew: Oneonta Public, Cullman Public Hartselle Public Hired Cataloger: Leslie Hargrave
2006	Members withdrew: Wheeler Basin (only Decatur Public now), Florence Public, Athens Public, Calhoun Community College
2007	Decatur City Schools needed the Johnston Street location back, so, on April 25 LMN moved to The Greens Office Park at 2132 6th Ave SE, Suite 106, Decatur. On the 2nd floor the 3,150 square feet area was divided into 7 rooms. LMN paid The Greens to install a kitchen sink/counter and paid for utilities monthly.
2008	Members withdrew: DeKalb County Public; Athens State University
2009	Due to economic downturn, Cataloger position was eliminated (9/30/2008); the Coordinator assumed all cataloging responsibilities. Gadsden State added Valley Street Campus (3-17-2009)
2010	Contract with Syndetics to display summary, cover images, and review enhancements began
2011	The Board of Directors eliminated the Executive Committee. Certification for catalogers was required as an online test. Members withdrew: Sheffield Public, Muscle Shoals Public, Helen Keller Public

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2012	RFP issued bids for new library automation system due to increase in software maintenance and drop in membership. LMN Board of Directors selected Auto-Graphics of Pomona, CA, iLuminar version, integrated library software package consisting of circulation, cataloging, online catalog, federated searching and all hosted as SaaS at the vendor's site in the cloud. SaaS services provide upgrades and backups so LMN employees no longer perform these services. Purchase total $42,000 was provided from LMN savings. Migrated from III to AutoGraphics in December 12, 2012.
2013	Members withdrew: Decatur High School, Austin High School, Courtland Public
2014	LMN became a beta-test site for Auto-Graphics new html revised version; MVCv4 upgrade was implemented by AG on March 25. AlaSup increased the LMN connection to Huntsville from T1 to 10MB. Members voted to rebrand LMN's logo to a blue oval. In April, LMN had an exhibit booth at the Alabama library state convention in Huntsville.
2015	Coordinator attended a webinar and received a free Access Point which she installed into the switch adding free wi-fi service at the LMN office.
2016	An API from Auto-Graphics for OverDrive (online ebook service) began; utilized by two members.
2017	After eleven years, USAC discontinued all eRate discounts for voice services. An API from Auto-Graphics for Unique Management (collection service) began; utilized by one member.
2018	The Board of Directors decided to downsize, so LMN moved to the 3rd floor to Progress Bank Tower located at **255 Grant Street SE, Suite 309**, Decatur, AL on September 13. Utilities were included in the lease. Items were sold and donated to accommodate the 478 square-feet office space with windows. Charter Spectrum Business was selected to provide a 100MB circuit replacing the AlaSup circuit after 21 years. New DNS and website (**lmnconnect.org**) was created by Coordinator using BlueHost and WordPress replacing www.lmn.lib.al.us and webmail.lmn.lib.al.us. An API from Auto-Graphics for Unique Management (collection agency service) began; utilized by one member. Snead sent a .csv file for batch importing students into LMN's patron database.
2019	AG implemented an upgrade V6 on September 27 changing workflow. Gadsden State closed McClellan branch.

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2020	Member withdrew: Scottsboro Public In March the COVID pandemic shut down the state and the world mandating all to "stay at home." This decision laid the path to the Coordinator working from home. Therefore, the Board of Directors decided to eliminate rent reducing the budget, so LMN relocated to **1405 Plaza Street SE,** Decatur, AL in May. Items and equipment were sold; Charter Spectrum network was moved. A stipend to offset electricity and utilities was given annually to the Coordinator for using home resources. LMN members began using Zoom online software for board meetings.
2021	Pandemic still enduring and persistent. Alabama education system began assigning new "A" numbers for college student identification.
2022	Member withdrew: Northwest Shoals Community College
2023	