

Needs Statement:

The Fenway Library Consortium serves a diverse group of users affiliated with fourteen institutions, including the students and faculty of twelve colleges, the staff of a museum and the students of its affiliated school of art, the patrons of a public library, as well as the general public of the greater Boston area. A broad diversity of race, ethnicity and age are represented within this population. All together, there are 55,000 academic users, ____ museum users, 35,900 public library users, and a population of over 1,000,000 potential users of the Consortium's resources. The counties served are Suffolk, Norfolk and Middlesex, represented by the 7th, 8th, and 9th U.S. congressional districts.

FLC patrons need information to assist them in their daily activities, in their courses, in seeking and holding employment, and for the general enrichment of their lives. They need information in different formats and at different intellectual levels. The information and materials which they require must be timely as well as easily and efficiently retrievable.

The Fenway Library Consortium evolved from the idea that libraries conveniently reached by public transportation could support their users effectively by the cooperative sharing of resources and services. Each Consortium member offers special subject strengths in areas ranging from the visual arts, music and theater to education, engineering and health sciences. In combination the collection totals over 2,831,000 volumes, nearly 13,000 periodical titles, as well as a wide array of online, electronic and non-print media.

Beginning as a group of neighborhood libraries offering reciprocal borrowing privileges through Walk-In Interlibrary Loan (WILL), the Fenway Library Consortium burgeoned into a technologically sophisticated consortium that cooperatively addresses shared collection management, user services, cooperative planning, information sharing and staff development. While proximity remains an essential feature of the consortium, online and electronic access to information and membership in the Massachusetts Regional Document Delivery System have reduced dependency on physical location for sharing resources.

What remains a constant in the life of the Fenway Library Consortium is its dedication to serving the needs of library users. Continuing cooperation and planning by member libraries ensures that users will continue to be served effectively as the consortium approaches its twenty-fifth anniversary in the year 2000.

Mission Statement:

The Fenway Libraries Consortium, established in 1975, enriches the educational, intellectual, informational and social aspirations of our users through the cooperative provision of superior quality library resources and services.

In collaboration with one another, FLC member libraries:

1. provide access to our unique collections and information resources;
2. offer an ongoing library information-sharing and staff development program that enhances our ability to offer the highest level of services to users;
3. provide a forum for the FLC directors to meet regularly and share collegially in the work of the consortium; and
4. participate with other organizations who also seek to serve the students and citizens of our area with high quality library resources and services.

Goals and Objectives:

- **Goal I: Provide access to our unique collections and information resources.**

Activities:	Responsibility:
Offer WILL (Walk-In Interlibrary Loan), an onsite reciprocal borrowing service	Individual FLC Libraries
Optimize document delivery services among members.	Individual FLC Libraries
Participate in MBLC statewide document delivery system.	Individual FLC Libraries

Encourage reciprocal activities with the Boston Library Consortium.	FLC Coordinator & Board
Create and maintain an FLC web page which provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • links to all members' pages, catalogs and appropriate services • FLC collection information, such as publications • links to relevant web pages • relevant updates to FLC membership 	Simmons College as host of FLC web page FLC Web Advisory Committee FLC Coordinator
Establish an "experts list" of staff with specific expertise that the members can call upon.	FLC Board & Individual FLC Libraries
Explore establishing discussion groups for librarians and staff.	FLC Board

- **Goal II: Provide an ongoing library information-sharing and staff development program that enhances our ability to serve our users at the highest level.**

Activities:	Responsibility:
Host the annual Staff Development Day	FLC Board & FLC Staff Development Committee
Hold at least two workshops each year on topics of special interest to library staff.	FLC Board
Conduct at least three staff tours of member libraries each year.	FLC Board
Conduct at least one workshop each year devoted to the professional development of FLC Directors.	FLC Board

- **Goal III: Provide a forum for FLC Directors to meet regularly and share collegially in the work of the Consortium.**

Activities:	Responsibility:
Schedule and coordinate regular meetings of the Board of Directors.	FLC Coordinator FLC Directors
Perform, on a regular and systematic cycle, informational surveys (salary, IPEDS, etc.).	FLC Directors
Initiate programs/ideas that assist the work of the group as a whole.	FLC Directors
Provide committee leadership for the work of the organization.	FLC Directors

- **Goal IV: Participate with other organizations who also seek to serve the students and citizens of our area with high quality library resources and services.**

Activities:	Responsibility:
Perform needs assessment to identify resources and services not available in FLC	FLC Directors or special FLC subcommittee
Identify and contact organizations for possible cooperative arrangements.	FLC Directors or special FLC subcommittee
Determine the kind and level of participation appropriate with these organizations.	FLC Directors

Plan Methodology:

A committee of five FLC board members was appointed in the spring of 1998 to develop a long-range plan for 1999-2004. Committee members included Harvey Varnet, FLC Chair-Elect and Library Director at Simmons College; Mickey Zemon, FLC Chair and Library Director at Emerson College; Sharon Bostick, Chair, Boston Library Consortium and Library Director at Umass/Boston; Chuck Flaherty, Library Director at Brookline Public Library and Rich Kaplan, Library Director at the Mass. College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. The committee assessed the current strength of the FLC and identified opportunities and threats that the Consortium would face in the next few years. After input from the board at the June 5 meeting, the committee developed a mission statement and goals and objectives, both of which were presented to the board at the September 1998 meeting. The committee incorporated feedback from the board in preparing the final plan.