

What's Mine is Yours: Collaborating To Protect Print Collections

Matthew Revitt
University of Maine

Ben Treat
Bangor Public Library

www.maineinonet.org/mscs/



The breadth and scope of the US and Canadian collective print book collection are not derived from a subset of the largest local collections, but are instead obtained from the contributions of thousands of libraries all over the US and Canada.

OCLC Research Position Paper “The US and Canadian Collective Print Book Collection: A 2019 Snapshot”, Lavoie, Brian (2019)

www.maineinonet.org/mscs



Background on ME Libraries

- A tradition of collaboration
- A tradition of sharing
- A history of trust

www.maineinfonet.org/mscs



Background on MSCC

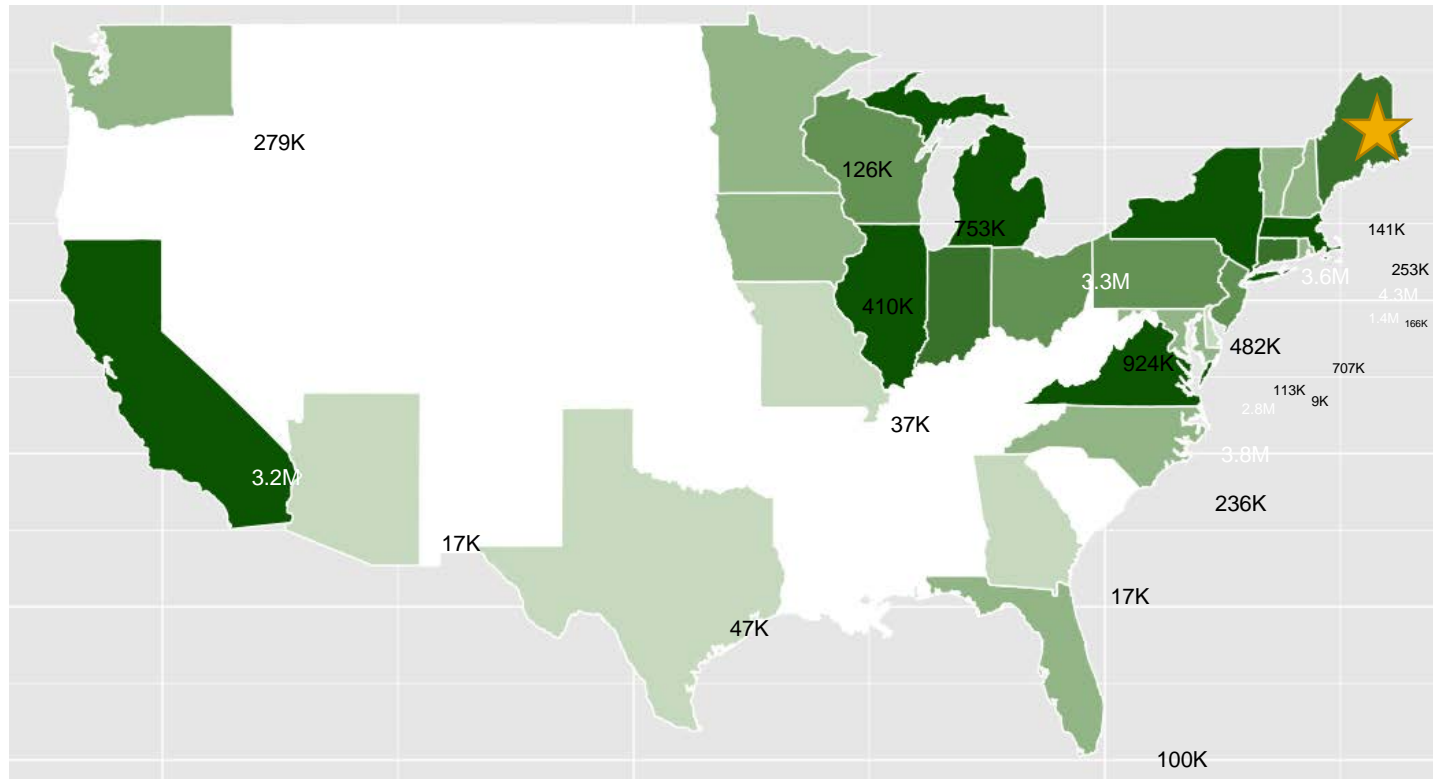
The Maine Shared Collections Cooperative is a shared print program, whose members have collectively committed to retaining approx. 1.5 million monographs for minimum of 15 years.

42 members, including 18 academic libraries and 24 public libraries.

www.maineinfonet.org/mscs



Lacking Public Library Participation in Shared Print



www.maineinonet.org/mscs

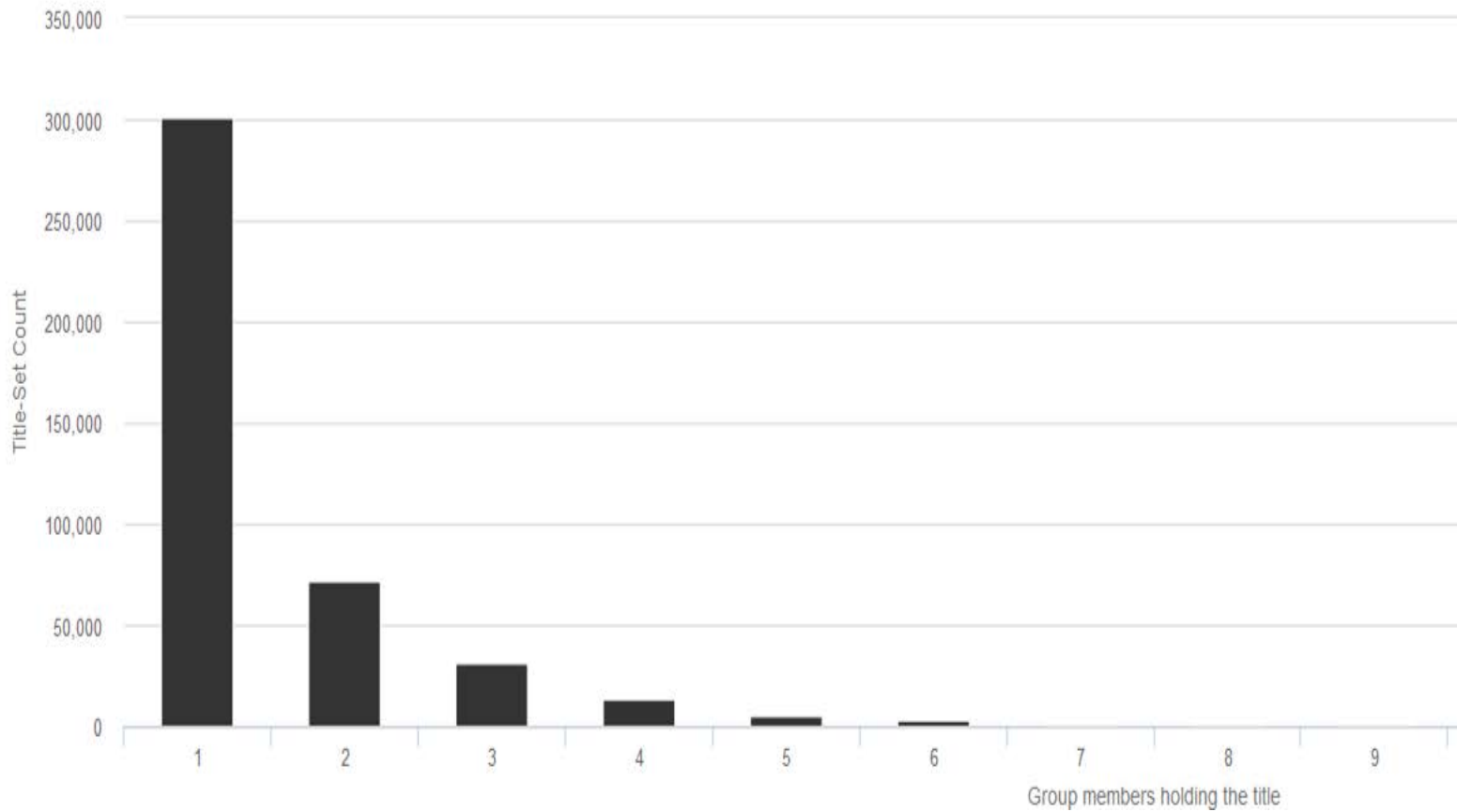
Why a Public Library Would Participate?

- Unique public library holdings
- High circulation rates at public libraries
- Guilt-free weeding

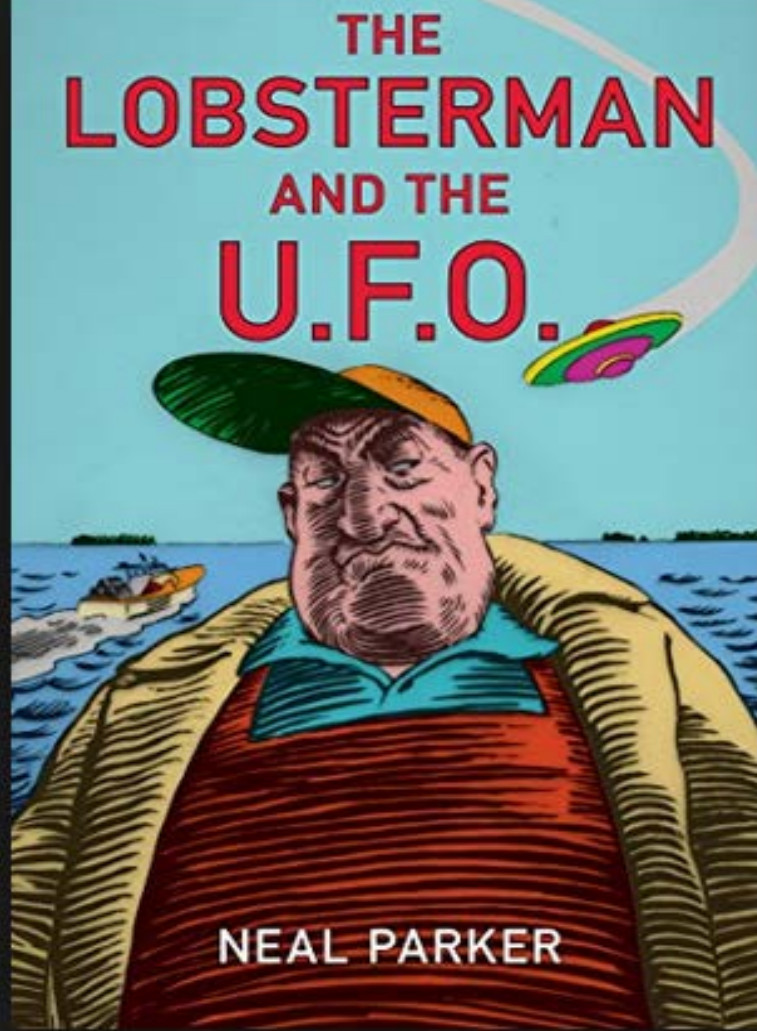
www.maineinonet.org/mscs



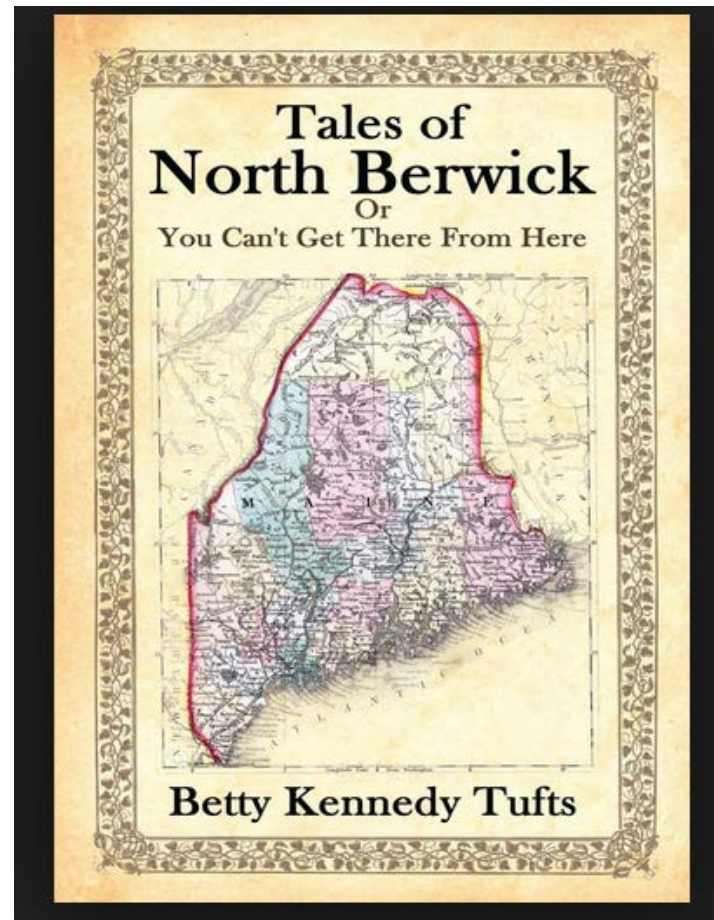
All Libraries Bring Unique Content



www.maineinfonet.org/mscs



333 x 500 - Images may be subject to copyright. [Learn More](#)



www.maineinonet.org/mscs

Lending Patterns

2019 Bangor Public Library ILLs went to:

Public Libraries: 10,152 (51%)

Academic Libraries: 5,662 (29%)

State Library (& special): 3,909 (20%)



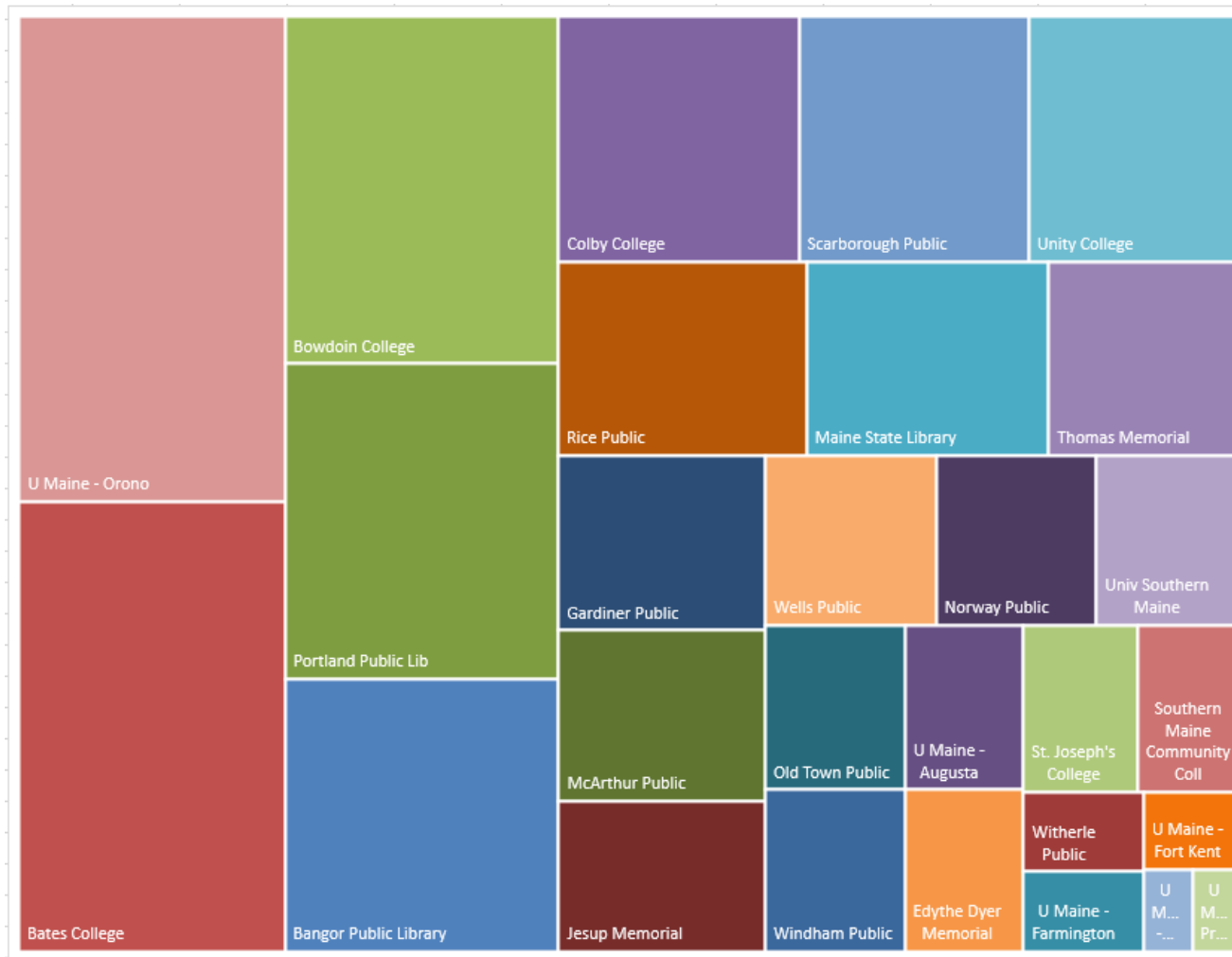
www.maineinonet.org/mscs

How a Public Library Participates in Shared Print



www.maineinfonet.org/mscs

Lots of Small Libraries



www.maineinonet.org/mscs



MSCC's Collection Analysis Needs

GreenGlass

- ☑ Incorporate local holdings & usage data, combined with external data sources e.g. OCLC WorldCat
- ☑ Visually present the data in easy to interpret ways
- ☑ Incorporate detailed retention rules & allocation of retention responsibility across group
- ☑ Exclude categories of material considered not retention worthy

Covering Costs of Analysis

- Not possible for smaller libraries to cover their full analysis costs
- Needed larger participants to subsidize costs—in particular, the Maine State Library made analysis affordable for public libraries



Importance of Resource Sharing Network

- All MSCC members part of state-wide union catalog (MaineCat) and associated resource sharing network
- Check commitments recorded in MaineCat when making withdrawal decisions
- Participants get seamless delivery = more easily rely on commitments at other libraries



Some Housekeeping Required

- Ideally, clean up data in advance (duplicate records, no ISBN, no OCLC #)
- Consider doing an inventory first
- Data entry: putting the retention commitment into the ILS item records



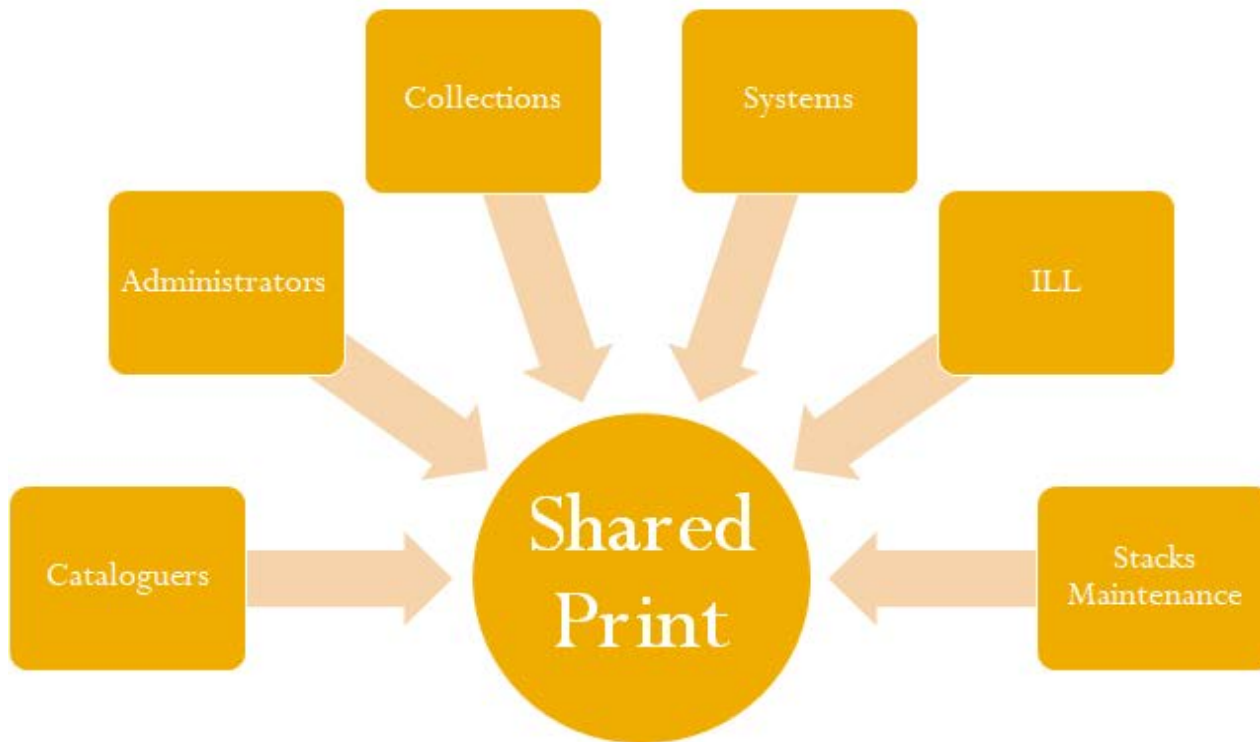
What does Participation in a Shared Print Program Look Like?



www.maineinfonet.org/mscs

Village People

It takes a village of library staff to make for a successful shared print program :



www.maineinonet.org/mscs



Importance of Project Management



www.maineinonet.org/mscs



Collection Analysis Timeline

Activity	Date
Kick-off Meetings with Libraries & OCLC	January 2019
Cataloging and data questionnaires completed	February 2019
Comparator libraries finalized and special category defined	January 2019
All bib and item data received from libraries	March 2019
GreenGlass loaded	May 2019
Retention model approved	August 2019
GreenGlass reloaded to reflect retention candidates	September 2019
Retention review and rejected allocations reported to OCLC	January 2020
GreenGlass reloaded with FINAL retention commitments	February 2020
Libraries load commitments in ILSs	February – March 2020

www.maineifonet.org/mscs



Not a One-Time Project

Ongoing shared print work:

- Replacing missing or damaged items
- Transferring retention commitments to other libraries
- Revoking commitments on out of scope material
- Maintaining accurate retention information in ILS records
- Ongoing storage of titles committed
- Developing supporting policies and infrastructure
- Communicating with participating libraries
- Opportunities to build upon shared print (e.g. digitization of rare items)
- Analyzing newer titles & revisit existing commitments

www.maineinonet.org/mscs



Storage Planning

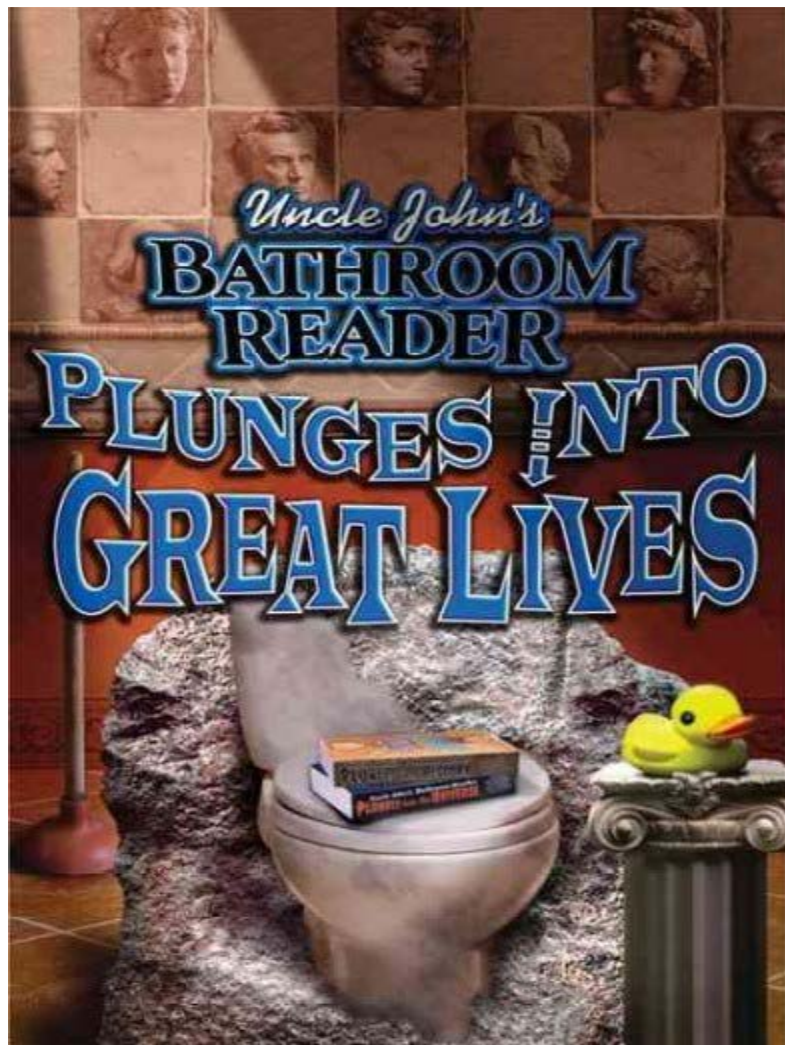
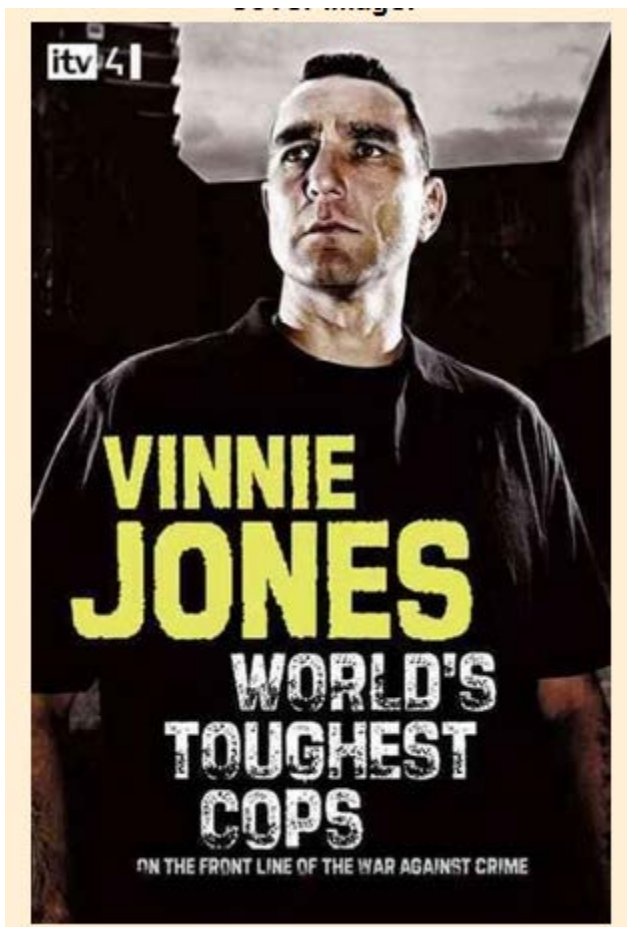
- Strike a balance when committing—need to be realistic about available space
- Shared print commitments provide a safety net for libraries in weeding content held by others



What's Different About Publics?

- Publics circulate more items more often:
 - factor that into retention rules
 - review item condition
- Children are more likely to gnaw on library materials, and publics have more kids' books.
- Celebrity cookbooks—our cultural heritage?
- Different philosophies & reasons for being – publics more driven more by demand, activity, and current events.
- More duplication among publics





www.maineinonet.org/mscs

What's Not Different

Shared library principles—efficiencies and responsible withdrawals to ensure material isn't lost from the collective collection



Lessons Learned

- **Multiple public libraries needed**
- **Keep up with weeding & inventory.** Inventory, analyze, commit—in that order
- **Clear on impact of retention commitments** – space & replacing lost or damaged titles
- **Not all material is retention-worthy**, but also consider collective needs & local authors
- **Apply different circulation thresholds to publics**
- **Clear policies & procedures**, while allowing for professional discretion & common sense
- **Ongoing process**, not a one and done set of collection analysis



Thank you!

Matthew Revitt, matthew.revitt@maine.edu

Ben Treat, ben.treat@bpl.lib.me.us

<http://www.maineinfonet.org/mcs/>

