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# *News/Nouvelles*

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## **UMFK joins other UMS libraries in launching “Gateway to Digital Collections”**

**Fort Kent** – The University of Maine at Fort Kent Blake Library is joining with other University of Maine System Libraries to bring online a newly developed, searchable database and its content for public use, to support the education, research and public service mission of the Universities.

The “Gateway to Digital Collections” provides online access to thousands of selected, digitized materials in all formats - full text, image, sound, video, and finding aids. These materials come from the special collections of the UMS Libraries, and other cultural institutions in Maine.

There are over 7,000 electronic books in Maine’s Netlibrary collection and the Project Gutenberg collection (public domain titles). The e-books are accessible to all Maine citizens. This resource includes options to browse the title lists of each collection.

The Gateway includes access to the full text Electronic Theses and Dissertations database (ETD), which indexes University of Maine doctoral dissertations (1964+) and masters’ theses (1876+).

Many of the records provide abstracts and link to the full-text documents. An electronic copy of the dissertation or thesis is automatically deposited in the database; retrospective documents are scanned on a per need basis.

Access to a limited number of full-text documents may be restricted to University of Maine faculty, staff, and students, as required by the author. Access to these documents will now be available as part of the Gateway to Digital Collections.

Digital images of works of art can be viewed online in the Carr Collection, a subset of the Museum Collection held by the University of Maine Museum of Art. The Carr Online Gallery contains digital surrogates of the nearly 300 modern and contemporary prints that comprise the collection.

The gift of Robert Venn Carr, Jr., Class of 1944, the collection includes works by Pablo Picasso, Josef Albers, Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, David Hockney, Joan Miro and Robert Delaunay, as well as a fine collection of nearly 90 paintings and World War II political cartoons by William Gropper.

The "Maine Music Box" is an interactive multimedia digital music library. Through the new database, users may view images of sheet music scores and cover art, play back audio renditions (MIDI files), and manipulate the arrangement of selected pieces by changing the key and instrumentation (SCORCH files). A few titles contain streaming video renditions.

The sheet music collection consists of approximately 22,000 pieces of historical and popular sheet music published and widely played from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century until approximately 1990. Most of the collections are from the Bagaduce Music Lending Library in Blue Hill, Maine.

The University of Maine System Libraries are among early library developers of a system to manage the metadata and associated digital resources.

The system and software supporting the Gateway to Digital Collections provides the libraries with the ability to: store large digital resources (e-books, sound, video, spatial data sets), manage access, and integrate the metadata across collections.

Using this technology, Gateway users can search digital resources in special collections at all the campus libraries, from any network connection, and be linked to the document on the local website.

According to Sharon Johnson, UMFK's dean of information services, "The Gateway unlocks the doors to unique, digital resources in the Libraries' collections, and broadens access to support an interactive education program."

**The UMS Libraries Gateway to Digital Collections: <http://libraries.maine.edu/gateway>**

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## WINDOWS ON MAINE PARTNERSHIP LAUNCHES VIDEO-ON DEMAND Maine Public Television Programs to be Available

ORONO, Me. -- The University of Maine's Fogler Library, Maine Public Broadcasting Network and the Maine State Museum have created a new Web-based archive that makes available programs and video clips from two MPBN programs with relevance for Maine teachers and students.

Known as "Windows on Maine," the Web site features material from the historical series "HOME: the Story of Maine" and MPBN's signature science series, "QUEST: Investigating our World." Windows on Maine will also feature other digital resources from distinguished Maine collections. Those elements include video, images, documents, sound files, interactive maps, animated simulations and other files that will assist in teaching and learning. The resource is available free via broadband and wireless connections.

Other collaborators in the project include members of the Digital Maine Learning Group -- Maine State Archives, Northeast Historic Film, the Maine Historical Society, and the Maine Folklife Center.

"Windows on Maine will provide needed digital resources for the successful middle school laptop program and its extension to high schools," says UMaine's Marilyn Lutz, the project director. "It is a vehicle for advancing student information technology skills which have been linked to the needs of Maine's (and the country's) emerging economic and workforce development programs."

The Web site offers K-12 teachers, and teacher education programs, online professional development programming through the Annenberg/CPB educational distribution network. Windows on Maine increases the speed of Internet streaming access to these video resources that support school-based and life-long learning, across the curriculum, by providing local storage for almost a terabyte of material.

Windows on Maine is designed to support the integration of technologies into classroom instruction and curricula. As the collection develops, advisors will help determine video clips and other resources that best serve educators' needs in specific subjects. It is intended to support quality technology training, which focuses on instructional skills and classroom content, and to facilitate the use of technology in learning strategies.

Access to broadband availability in Maine continues to grow, and a program for its broader deployment is under study by the state Legislature. The word "broadband" encompasses technologies that carry voice and information, and means connections faster than a dial-up phone line. [The most common broadband technologies are Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) and cable modem service; fixed and WiFi wireless services are becoming more prevalent].

"The advent of statewide digital broadcasting creates an exceptional opportunity for the key organizations with digital resources to positively impact Maine's 18,000 classroom teachers and, in turn, the 224,000 young people they reach each year," says Mary Anne Alhadef, president and CEO of MPBN. "Public television stations, with evolving multicasting and datacasting capabilities, and cultural organizations must begin to rely upon new partners to help develop meaningful resources for this increased distribution capacity."

"One goal of Windows on Maine is to make digital collections in museums and libraries, available to teachers for incorporation into lesson plans and student work,"

says J.R. Phillips, director of the Maine State Museum. "Technology is also being used to advance information literacy by providing students with access to primary and secondary resources essential to an understanding of our heritage.

The Windows on Maine project is supported in part with a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). "The IMLS National Leadership Grants foster the best thinking in our fields about how museums and libraries can further enrich community, academic, family and individual lives across the country," says Robert Martin, the institute's director. "The grants we make today will help develop leading-edge technologies to expand access to collections and educational programs, support original research to improve professional practices, and form powerful partnerships between libraries and museums and other community organizations. It is our hope that today's grants will provide models for libraries and museums throughout the nation to emulate tomorrow."

IMLS is a federal grant making agency located in Washington DC that fosters leadership, innovation and a lifetime of learning by supporting museums and libraries.

Windows on Maine

<http://windowsonmaine.library.umaine.edu>