**Member Forum eBook Discussion - February 26, 2014**

About a dozen attended the session led by Deb Hoadley, MLS eBook Team Leader and Advisor. Greg Pronevitz, MLS Executive Director, also attended.

Deb led off the session with an introduction to the current 51-library pilot project and demonstrated how participating libraries can access the MARC records for all existing content at a special repository managed by MLS and hosted by ByWater Solutions on a Koha, open access ILS at: <http://ebooks.masslibsystem.org/>

Currently materials from **Baker & Taylor** and **BiblioBoard** are available to all participating pilot libraries. Content from **EBL** (now a ProQuest service) will be added shortly. Non-pilot libraries can view the MARC records but access is not permitted under the pilot project license.

Discussion among participants centered on content, ownership, and sustainability.

**Content** in the shared collection is determined by the Pilot Project Collection Development Committee. This committee is comprised of representatives of all types of libraries and they select materials to meet the needs of school, academic, and public libraries.

**Ownership** of content varies by supplier. We intentionally chose three difference models for use/ownership to test them during the pilot period. All of the content provided by BiblioBoard is leased for a specific term. MLS has no ownership. Content to be provided by EBL will be borrowed on a short term basis and be paid for as it is used. MLS has no ownership. The content supplied by Baker & Taylor is owned by MLS with a statewide license for use (usually with a single user license). Baker & Taylor has assured us that if we need to move the content to a new platform, that Baker & Taylor will assist us.

**Sustainability** and future funding of the project is critical to the long-term success for the statewide rollout. Our goal with this project is to build a statewide shared collection with guaranteed ownership (when purchased) with a user-friendly experience. The cost for a collection that will satisfy the needs of MLS’s 1,600 member libraries will be quite substantial. It is highly unlikely that MLS will ever be funded at a level to support collection development on that scale. The Massachusetts Library Community will need to pitch in to invest at an appropriate level to make this project successful.

The Sustainability & Funding Committee is developing a plan to encourage library investment, which would grow over time to reach a level that will sustain a statewide platform. These investments make sense because libraries will be shifting funding from traditional to electronic materials over time and using a small percentage of each libraries’ acquisition budget to support an ever-growing statewide shared collection will benefit all libraries and residents.