



Tuesday, 4 June 2024

For Immediate Release

Interlibrary Loan Service temporarily unavailable at the Ellsworth Public Library

Service will resume once the Maine State Library finalizes negotiations with a new provider

Ellsworth – 4 June 2024, The Ellsworth Public Library regrets to inform its patrons that the library is temporarily unable to request books from other libraries within the state. The current van delivery contract, which has facilitated the transfer of books between libraries, is set to expire on June 30. The contract for the book delivery service is held by the Maine State Library and was required to go through a competitive bidding process (RFP) this year. Unfortunately, until the State Library finalizes negotiations with a new delivery provider, the Ellsworth Public Library cannot fulfill interlibrary loan (ILL) requests.

Patrons will still be able to request, and place holds on the 46,000 in-house items at the Ellsworth Public Library. All items that were previously requested from other libraries and are already on hold at the Ellsworth Public Library can be checked but need to be returned no later than June 22.

In anticipation of this interruption, the [Maine InfoNet](#) Board and the [Minerva](#) Executive Board have made the difficult decision to turn off all requests between libraries within the [MaineCat](#) environment, including Minerva, [MILS](#), and [URSUS](#), as of today, June 4. The services might be on pause until later in August.

The Ellsworth Public Library understands this may cause inconvenience and frustration, and the library team appreciates your understanding and patience during this period. For more information and answers to common questions, please visit the FAQ section provided by the Maine State Library: [Van Delivery FAQ](#) or ask the library staff for assistance.

About the Ellsworth Public Library: Ellsworth's historic Tisdale House has been home to the Ellsworth Public Library since 1897. The library hosts a collection of more than 46,000 in-house items, including books, large print books, audiobooks, movies, music CDs, and its growing Library of Things. In 2023, the library ran 470 programs for all ages. Patrons have access to over 8 million items from 63 libraries statewide as well as subscriptions to 50 print publications and online access to streaming and download services as well as to the New York Times. An EPL library card also gives its holder access to free passes to many renowned Down East museums: www.ellsworthlibrary.net

Contact: Berit Becker - Communications Director - Ellsworth Public Library
bbecker@ellsworthlibrary.net - (207)-667-6363

Ellsworth Public Library
20 State Street, 04605 Ellsworth Maine
207-667-6363
www.ellsworth.lib.me.us

Hours:
Mon, Tues, Fri: 9 am – 5 pm
Wed, Thurs: 9 am – 6 pm
Sat: 9 am – 2 pm