STATUTE
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 11-9e
(a) ... a “cooperating library service unit” means an organization of different types of libraries situated in a stipulated area of the state whose purpose is to improve library service through coordinated planning, resource sharing, and the development of programs too costly or impractical for a single library to maintain.

MISSION

VISION
Connecticut libraries of all types and sizes trust CLC to provide resources, programs, and expertise to help them grow and thrive.

VALUES
Libraries build strong social infrastructures which are fundamental to a literate, democratic, equitable, and just society. CLC works to improve library service across Connecticut by leading with a commitment to integrity, service, and community.

- INTEGRITY: CLC is committed to being a trustworthy partner to members, vendors, and stakeholders.
- SERVICE: CLC strives to be helpful, approachable, and responsive.
- COMMUNITY: CLC fosters cooperation, connection, and collaboration.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Building Stronger Connecticut Libraries
- Leverage economies of scale to provide greater purchasing power for member libraries.
- Provide programs and services that build library capacity and organizational health.
- Explore avenues to expand and improve learning opportunities for librarians and library staff.

Building a Stronger Connecticut Library Community
- Advocate for and promote the role of libraries, librarians, and library staff to build strong communities.
- Build cohesiveness and strengthen relationships among Connecticut libraries to promote mutual understanding and advance common goals.
- Enhance the sharing of knowledge and best practices through networking and communication among all types of libraries.
Building a Stronger CLC

- Strengthen financial position for stability and growth.
- Develop operational efficiencies to improve services for member libraries.
- Ensure branding reflects services, priorities, and partnership with Connecticut libraries.
- Provide staff with time and space to learn new skills, explore new ideas, and pursue new opportunities to help improve CLC and its services for libraries.

HISTORY

The Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC) was founded on July 1, 2003, but its roots go back decades earlier.

In 1971, the Development Committee of the Connecticut Library Association set to work on a statewide plan for library service. The resulting report, Target 76, outlined the current status of library initiatives in the state and set forth a number of legislative priorities to be completed by 1976, including the formation of a statewide committee to “encourage the establishment of regional library councils ... with a tentative goal of three new councils by September 1976.” This recommendation was also a pillar of the Connecticut State Library Division of Library Development’s 1972 “Long Range Program for the Development of Library Services in Connecticut.”

These legislative efforts were successful, and the creation of regional “Cooperating Library Service Units” (CLSU) was authorized by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1975. In addition to defining a Library Service Unit, Public Act 75-363 charged the “state library committee” with appointing a fifteen-member CLSU Review Board, comprised of representatives from all library types as well as from the existing regional groups, to “establish criteria for, and encourage the formation of, a system of regional cooperating library service units,” and to report its recommendations annually to the joint standing committee on education of the general assembly.

By 1979 there were six regional CLSU: Southeastern Connecticut Library Association (incorporated 1967), Capitol Region Library Council (1969), Southwestern Connecticut Library System (1969), Eastern Connecticut Library Association (1976), Region One Cooperative (1977), and Southern Connecticut Library Council (1979). Each CLSU offered their members something different in response to local needs. Discounts, media swaps, interlibrary loan, roundtables, staff training, and library programming were core services across the state.

In 1982, Public Act 82-360 updated the definition of a CLSU to the one that appears in Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 11-9e to this day: “an organization of different types of libraries situated in a stipulated area of the state whose purpose is to improve library service through coordinated planning, resource sharing, and the development of programs too costly or impractical for a single library to maintain.” This bill also authorized funding for the CLSU: “The state library board shall include in its budget recommendations to the governor and general assembly such amounts as are required in the estimation of the board for the operation of the cooperating library service units.” It authorized the CLSU Review Board to oversee the groups and establish criteria for distributing funding. Each office received a basic operating grant, and any additional funding was awarded on a competitive basis.
In 1988, Public Act 88-216 combined a number of library-related boards and committees, including the CLSU Review Board, into a new advisory body to the State Library Board: the Advisory Council on Library Planning and Development (ACLPD). ACLPD became the primary mechanism for keeping the State Library Board apprised of Connecticut library activities, including the work of the CLSUs.

In 1993, state funding cuts forced the reduction of CLSUs from six to four. The two eastern Connecticut groups merged into Eastern Connecticut Libraries, and the two western Connecticut groups merged into Western Connecticut Library Council.

Ten years later, as state funding continued to dwindle and technology made statewide efficiencies possible, the four remaining CLSUs merged into one statewide organization: The Connecticut Library Consortium.

Today, CLC remains the sole Connecticut CLSU. While its services have evolved over the years, CLC, in the tradition of its regional predecessors, has always remained focused on one priority: serving and strengthening Connecticut libraries.

REFERENCES


STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

**Board Committee:**
Thomas Piezzo, Chair, Southington Public Library
Debbie Herman, CT State Manchester
Alice Knapp, Ferguson Library
Audra MacLaren, Gunn Memorial Library and Museum
Mary Ellen Minichiello, Southern Connecticut State University
Linda Robinson, Ellington Public Schools
Kim Rogers, New Haven Public Schools

**Staff Committee:**
Ellen Paul, Executive Director
Jacqueline Cashin, Assistant Director for Operations, Bids and Contracts
Christine Sarrazin, Marketing and Communications Coordinator
Amanda Stern, Events and Special Projects Manager

*Approved by the Strategic Planning Committee of the Connecticut Library Consortium Board of Trustees on May 1, 2024.*

*Approved by the Connecticut Library Consortium Board of Trustees on May 23, 2024.*