



UNH Librarian Appointed President Of Elite Library Consortium

Contact: [Erika Mantz](#)
(603) 862-1567
UNH Media Relations

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DURHAM, N.H. -- Claudia Morner, dean of the University Library at the University of New Hampshire, was recently appointed president of the Boston Library Consortium, just four years after the university was admitted into the prestigious consortium. Founded in 1970, the Boston Library Consortium is a cooperative association of 19 academic and research libraries that share resources so the collective strengths of the group advance the research and learning of the members' constituents.

Morner has been at UNH close to 11 years. She headed the \$19 million renovation of Diamond Library, which added 500 seats, 350 computer outlets, a new map room, and extensive electronic resources to the existing library and spearheaded the year of extensive review that led to UNH joining the consortium in 2002.

Consortium members include some of the most well-known research institutions in the nation: MIT, Brown, the Marine Biological Laboratory/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Boston University, Boston College, the campuses of University of Massachusetts, Brandeis University, Tufts University, Northeastern University, Wellesley College, Williams College and the University of Connecticut, as well as the Boston Public Library and Massachusetts State Library. UNH is the only member of the consortium from New Hampshire.

"I am proud to represent the University of New Hampshire in continuing to expand and improve the services the consortium provides to each member institution," said Morner. "Upcoming projects include development of a collection analysis tool that will help UNHH understand where its strengths are and what the strengths are of other libraries in the consortium, and the exploration of innovative ways to digitize parts of our collection and share expertise."

Morner noted that a big benefit of participation in the consortium is access to a virtual catalog that means books the university doesn't own can be in the hands of students, faculty and staff in less than four days. Cost-saving benefits include the cooperative purchasing of databases and other library services; participation in a new system of interlibrary loan that will cost less, guarantee 24-hour turnaround, and provide access to collections that before joining the consortium UNH needed to pay for; and cooperative collection development. Currently, UNH is working with six other BLC libraries to select music books and avoid duplication.