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UMaine Fogler Library and Partners Awarded Prestigious IMLS Grant

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ORONO--Thanks to a grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the University of Maine's Fogler Library in partnership with the Bagaduce Music Lending Library and the Bangor Public Library will create "The Maine Music Box." In this two-year project the libraries will design and implement an interactive, multimedia digital music library of images of scores with associated sound renditions, cover art, and lyrics. Users will be able to view, play and print scores, and manipulate music by changing the key or instrument.

The Maine Music Box project will deliver an instructional tool that advances the development and use of digital libraries, and enriches the experience of music educators and students. Throughout the country, educators are grappling with ways to meet state-mandated education standards. The Maine Music Box will help teachers and students achieve Maine Learning Results with online strategies tailored to specific requirements for all levels in the Visual and Performing Arts and Social Studies.

"This project provides a model for libraries that are endeavoring to find new ways to share their resources and redefine the use of their collections and services in this digital era" says Elaine Albright, dean of Cultural Affairs and Libraries at UMaine. "The project will demonstrate how collections can be enriched with the tools of information technologies, and connected to local communities to support and advance the broad education mission of libraries."

"This grant will allow us to give easier and instant access to our rich collection to the music teaching community," Kurt Stoll, executive director of the Bagaduce Music Lending Library says. "With important early works deteriorating quickly because of poor paper quality digitization is the only way to economically store the large volumes of scores, thus preserving them for future generations in their original form. To provide music teachers and students, particularly in remote areas of our state, with the same access to good teaching materials as those in larger communities has always been our concern and goal of our Education Committee. This has now become a reality thanks to digital preservation and the Internet,"

"What a wonderful way to showcase Maine's musical heritage while using the new technology to entice more people into discovering the basics of musical composition," says Barbara McDade, director of the Bangor Public Library.

"The technology revolution continually presents new challenges," says Dr. Robert S. Martin, director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. "Beyond mere connectivity, one

must constantly address the quality, organization, and preservation of the vast stores of information on the World Wide Web, especially the deep Web. The grants we make today to university libraries and research institutions across the nation evince the commitment of IMLS to ensure that digital information translates into knowledge, relevant and useful for all Americans of all ages and backgrounds.”

Preservation and Digitization of Library Materials helps to preserve or digitize library resources. The Fogler Library proposal was one of 35 applications in this category requesting over 7.7 million dollars, and one of the twelve proposals awarded a total of 2.9 million dollars. UMaine’s share of the grant is \$344,270.

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.

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