



For Immediate Release

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Old Colony Library Network Announces Membership Options for School Library and Media Centers

Braintree, MA. – March 5, 2009. School libraries and Media Centers now have an affordable way to tap into the riches of the Old Colony Library Network. (OCLN).

OCLN Membership provides the school with access to the rich depth of the entire OCLN collection. Students will be able to use their school library card to place requests on nearly 1 million titles owned throughout the 28 member libraries. As they become available, requested materials will be shipped directly to the student's school library, courtesy of the South Eastern Massachusetts Library System (SEMLS.)

David Slater, Executive Director of the Old Colony Library Network stated, "OCLN Membership can be a real benefit to cash strapped schools and their students." While stressing that schools must maintain materials and staffing budgets as a part of membership, he said, "... school libraries and their students will really benefit with the broad access to materials that OCLN Membership affords."

OCLN membership can also help to strengthen the bond between the public library and the schools, allowing each to focus on their core constituencies, while at the same time fostering cooperation and materials sharing.

Rebecca Freer, Director of the Norwell Public Library, commented:

"As librarians we have long felt the need to accommodate student and teachers' needs by providing materials from OCLN member libraries. Now schools will be able to continue to support their libraries and benefit from the resources in the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Library System. We believe in putting the materials directly into our user's hands. This membership brings materials directly to you, where you work or where you attend school at an affordable price."

Elizabeth Wolfe, Director of the Thayer Public Library in Braintree, added:

"During these tough economic times, we all have to look for ways to stretch our community resources. Through this cooperative effort with their municipal public library and OCLN membership, school media centers can create greatly expanded services for their students and faculty, add value to their school, and realize better efficiencies along the way. OCLN's new resource sharing product for public school media centers and private school libraries offers a unique opportunity to network all types of libraries together for the betterment of their communities."

About OCLN:

The Old Colony Library Network (OCLN) is a cooperative of 28 member libraries located on the South Shore of Massachusetts. OCLN membership includes 26 town and city libraries and 2 academic libraries. OCLN membership enables libraries to provide services that they would not be able to afford on their own. OCLN was founded in 1984 and is incorporated in Massachusetts as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt, nonprofit corporation and is recognized as a charitable organization by the Massachusetts Attorney General's office.

For more information please contact:

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