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About MARINet

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Overview

MARINet is a consortium of seven public libraries and two academic libraries in Marin County, all of whom share a single library catalog and most of their collections of physical and shared online resources. Your library card from any one of these libraries is valid at any MARINet library. With certain exceptions, library patrons can borrow items from any MARINet library and return them to any MARINet library.

MARINet is short for "Marin Automated Resources and Information NETWORK" and operates as a Special District, created as a Joint Powers Agency under the County of Marin, and registered with the Office of the California Secretary of State. Governance and funding for MARINet is provided by the member libraries under a formula contained in the [JPA \(Joint Powers Agency\) agreement of 1997](#). The initial mission was to create a shared library catalog in the 1990's, but we have expanded to provide delivery services, an [Overdrive collection available to all libraries](#), [numerous other shared online resources](#), and since 2017 the network connections for the public libraries in the consortium, through [CENIC](#).

Library schedules, fees, fines and policies differ among individual libraries. Please see each library's website for details:

- [Belvedere-Tiburon Library](#)
- [College of Marin](#)
- [Dominican University](#)
- [Larkspur Public Library](#)
- [Marin County Free Library](#)
- [Mill Valley Public Library](#)
- [San Anselmo Public Library](#)
- [San Rafael Public Library](#)
- [Sausalito Public Library](#)

Each Marin County resident has a "home library" which is the library tax jurisdiction they live in. To see which of these libraries is your "Home Library", please see [Which Library is my Home Library?](#)

For any other information about specific MARINet member libraries, please [visit their websites](#).

MARINet's Mission

The mission of the **Marin Automated Resources and Information Network (MARINet)** is to function as a consortium of libraries which enables its members to share resources and use information technology to fulfill their missions of serving the public.

MARINet was established by a Joint Powers Agreement on June 12, 1991. It is governed by a Board consisting of the directors of the member libraries. The current JPA which MARINet operates under is dated July 8, 1997 and is

available at [MARINet Joint Powers Agreement](#) (PDF). Addendums to the JPA were made to add members in 1997, 2001, 2010 and 2013, and all these JPA-related documents are [available online](#).

MARINet Board

The MARINet Governing Board is composed of the directors of each of the nine member libraries. One director serves as chair each year, elected by the board members at the June meeting. A Vice Chair is also selected in June, and traditionally the Vice Chair of each year becomes Chair the following year.

The Board chair starting in 2023 is Lana Adlawan of the Marin County Free Library. The Vice Chair is Crystal Duran of the Belvedere Tiburon Library.

Board members and the Board's Chair and Vice Chair serve on the MARINet Board as part of their duties as library directors of their respective agencies. They are not compensated nor reimbursed for expenses by MARINet in connection with membership on the Board.

Marin County Free Library	Founding Member	Lana Adlawan, Director of Library Services
Mill Valley Public Library	Founding Member	Anji Brenner, City Librarian
San Rafael Public Library	Founding Member	Catherine Quffa, Library & Recreation Director
Sausalito Public Library	Founding Member	Abbot Chambers, City Librarian
Belvedere-Tiburon Library	Joined in 1997	Crystal Duran, Director
San Anselmo Public Library	Joined in 1998	Linda Kenton, Town Librarian
Larkspur Public Library	Joined in 2001	Dan Schwarz, Larkspur City Manager
Archbishop Alemany Library, Dominican University of California	Joined in 2011	Gary Gorka, Director
College of Marin	Joined in 2014	Lauren Servais, Dean of Arts & Humanities

The software for the shared online catalog and library management system is Sierra, which is licensed from [Innovative Interfaces, Inc.](#)

MARINet Board Agendas and Minutes

The Board meets on the 1st Thursday of the month from 12 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. Since March 2020, the meetings have been held online using Zoom. The exact time of each meeting, and links to it are on the agenda that is posted at least 72 hours prior to the meeting, on the webpage below:

- [MARINet Board Meeting Agendas and Minutes](#)

MARINet Staff Information

MARINet's is staffed by employees of the County of Marin, who are assigned to positions within the MARINet Consortium Joint Powers Agency. Their salaries are paid from the MARINet budget. For compensation and benefit information, please follow the links below to the [Marin County Salary Book](#).

Position	Hours Work
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MARINet Systems Administrator	40
VACANT - [[Systems Librarian (Senior Librarian)]]	-
Library Technical Assistant II	37.5
Library Technical Assistant II	37.5

MARINet staff may be contacted through the [Suggestion Box](#).

Budget and Finance

MARINet is funded by its member libraries, according to a formula set out in the [1997 Joint Powers Agreement](#) governing MARINet. Funding for the original purchase of the online system was provided by the member jurisdictions and by a grant from the Marin Community Foundation.

These annual charges to libraries are the sole source of funding for MARINet. All fees and fines paid on the MARINet website are distributed to the member libraries or to their governing agencies, based on which library owns the item the fine is being paid on.

The current (fiscal year 2022-23) MARINet Budget is \$1,951,485. This includes 5% (\$88,592) for reserves, and \$292,000 for Overdrive online content purchased by MARINet staff.

The funding formula is revised after Jan. 1 of each year, and after being approved by the Board, takes effect for the following fiscal year on July 1. The funding formula is determined by combining three factors:

1. The population served by each member library's jurisdiction according to the California State Library, or for academic members, Fall enrollment figures
2. The circulation figures for the previous year, which is checkouts and renewals done by the residents of each member library's jurisdiction
3. The number of items each jurisdiction has in their collection on Jan. 1 of each year

Budget documents

- [FY 2022-23 MARINet Funding Formula](#) (PDF) approved Jan. 27, 2022
- [Historic Cost Sharing FY91-92 to FY22-23](#) (PDF)
- [FY 2022-2023 MARINet Budget](#) (PDF)

MARINet uses the County of Marin as our fiscal agent, and expenditures are overseen by the County's Department of Finance. We have an annual audit done by a CPA firm. The audit for FY2020-21 is in progress now. Here are the latest audit documents:

- [FY 2019-20 Audit](#) (PDF)
 - [FY 2019-20 Audit – Management Report](#) (PDF)
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Bids and Proposals

February 17, 2023: [MARINet Staffing and Organizational Consultant RFP](#)

Public Records or FOIA Requests

MARINet is a special district of the County of Marin. The County has information on the Public Records Act, and how to make a [request for public records](#).

Contact MARINet

- [Contact MARINet](#)
- Library Staff: [Login to Thurston](#)

Last updated Jan 2023