

## Examples of K12 Digital Consortia

### **AEA Digital Library** <https://www.aedigitallibrary.org/>

The AEA Digital Library is part of the Iowa Area Education Agencies (AEA) that serve 335 school districts in 9 regions across Iowa. The AEA Digital Library was created in 2011 as a pilot project with one AEA and rolled out statewide in 2012. The AEA Digital Library is one part of Iowa AEA Online which is virtual library that provides free access to 14 online resources to students and staff in both public and private k12 schools.

**Funding:** The AEA Digital Library is fully funded through AEA funding. AEA funding is controlled by legislatively determined amounts of property tax dollars and state funds that literally “flow through” local school district budgets to individual AEA’s.

For an excellent, in-depth explanation of AEA funding, please see: [http://www.iowaaea.org/media/cms/AEA\\_Funding\\_Whitepaper\\_from\\_Iowa\\_AE\\_E600D430F6AEF.pdf](http://www.iowaaea.org/media/cms/AEA_Funding_Whitepaper_from_Iowa_AE_E600D430F6AEF.pdf)

**Governance:** Each of the 9 AEA’s has a hired administrator. In addition, there is a liaison from the IA Dept of Education appointed to each AEA that helps facilitate communication between the IA Dept of Education and the individual AEA’s.

**Collection:** The shared collection is made up of over 400 titles, most of which are streaming video. There is a small but growing collection of ebooks from independent publishers as well. The AEA Digital Library does not have digital audiobooks currently. In addition to materials in the shared collection, individual AEA’s with their own funding are able to purchase materials for their use only.

The collection has a hosted platform created and maintained by a private digital services company, Learning Core, <http://www.learningcore.net/>. Learning Core staff serve as the project managers for the collection, providing programming, technical support to AEA staff, and training. Karen Appleton serves as the Collection Facilitator and oversees a committee made up of representatives from each of the 9 AEA’s who select content for the shared collection.

The collection is made up of owned content as well as some subscriptions and all of the materials are always available, meaning unlimited users are permitted.

## **Commonwealth eBooks Collections** <http://cec.masslibsystem.org/cec/home>

The Commonwealth eBooks Collections (CEC) serves 433 libraries in Massachusetts including 148 school libraries. Created by the Massachusetts Library System (MLS) in partnership with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and participating libraries, the CEC began in 2012 with three distinct collections provided by EBL(ProQuest), BiblioBoard and Axis 360 (Baker & Taylor). To access the CEC, participating libraries must be members of MLS and pay an annual membership fee. New libraries must complete enrollment forms during a two month “open enrollment period”.

**Funding:** Initial funding came from MLS, local library funding and in part from an IMLS grant. For schools, long-term funding is through a combination of a base fee per school plus an enrollment -based fee. ex.

Fewer than 500 students \$100

Fewer than 1,000 students \$200

1,000 or greater students \$200 + \$0.202 per student

**Governance:** The CEC is a participant-driven program. Through the steering committee and other committees and task forces, participating libraries govern and drive the program. The Steering Committee is the governance body for the program, providing general oversight and setting goals and strategy for the program. For more information about the steering committee, please see: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eY6R0tzviAWrXolW2f242jPIM99aSktqMkGZp25dp08/edit>

**Collection:** The CEC currently has over 200,000 ebooks in the three collections it maintains. For an excellent overview of the collections, please see: <http://cec.masslibsystem.org/cec/home/dashboard>. The collections share a common landing page designed and maintained by MLS and users access multiple vendor sites to view and check-out content. MLS staff currently does the selection and purchasing of content based on guidelines from a selection committee representing each of the library types. Participating libraries are always able and encouraged to For the CEC Collection Policy and other content-related information, please see: <http://cec.masslibsystem.org/cec/home/content>