

# Why Do We Need Libraries?

## HISTORY

"As an inherently educational space, Libraries do have a duty to represent the diversity of the human experience because it's a part of history, it's a part of sociology, and it's a part of our everyday lives."  
-USM Student

The art in this poster is based on the Special Collections Historical Pin Collection, a vital collection highlighting the historical role of pins in displaying things such as identity, culture and activism. It is available to view online and at the USM Special Collections.

"The Franco-American Collection is sort of helping to bring together the Franco-American communities of Lewiston and Auburn, who, for a really long time, were taught that they were lesser than. Their language was literally illegal in the State of Maine. You couldn't speak French in schools for like 6 years. We're also trying to rebuild and forge a new connection with our new Maine immigrants who come from French speaking countries, because for them it's a lifeline. And the work means being able to help also Franco-americans. A lot of them are older, but even younger people reconnect with their language, and through that their culture and making these new connections."  
-USM Library Staff

