

Library of Michigan's Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2008

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From left, Eric Magness-Eubank, director of Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library; Laurie St. Laurent, director of Marshall District Library; Beth Baker, director of Dickinson County Library; State Librarian Nancy Robertson; and Judith Moore, director of the Library of Michigan Foundation. The Library of Michigan awarded Alpena and Dickinson with Citations of Excellence, and Marshall District Library won the 2008 State Librarian's Excellence Award. Winners were announced at the Michigan Library Association annual conference in October in Kalamazoo.

News from Nancy

State Librarian Nancy R. Robertson

A recent poll from the American Library Association indicated something I'm betting is not entirely a shock to folks in our industry: U.S. library card registration has reached an historic high. That's right; as in, more people in America have a library card now than at any time since ALA began measuring library usage in 1990.



The results of this Harris Poll from Harris Interactive, released Sept. 22 during Library Card Sign-up Month, showed that 68 percent of all Americans now have a library card, up 5 percent since 2006. It's not a stretch to think that the economic and financial woes affecting us nationally and here at home have played a significant role in moving that percentage upward.

Even well before "extreme crisis" became the apparent definition for the nation's economy these past several months, times have been challenging for Michigan residents. Those same challenges have been spreading steadily to other states and regions of the country, as evidenced in the conversation trends I now regularly see on the state librarians' e-mail discussion list, as well as from the comments and concerns I heard during the annual meeting of state librarians in Jackson, Miss., in early October.

It's not exactly a case of "misery loves company," but the silver lining for libraries is that in a climate of economic uncertainty, our product—quality library services and programs—is in greater demand and deemed more essential than ever.

As more people walk through our libraries' doors, it's a chance to reach them in new ways and on new levels they'll probably never see coming. It's a wonderful opportunity to reach two varieties of customers: the first-time library visitor and the long-time library visitor who isn't yet aware of the full scope of services, resources and programs available to him or her.

"I think most that walk through our doors are pleasantly surprised by the variety of free services libraries offer," ALA President Jim Rettig said regarding the poll. "The poll has confirmed what we have been hearing from our members from the start: libraries have become family destinations, technology hubs, cultural centers – basically the pillar of most of the communities they serve. As the nation continues to experience a downturn in the economy, libraries are providing the tools needed to help Americans get back on their feet. From free homework help to assisting with résumés and job searches, now more than ever libraries are proving they are valued and trusted resources."

I couldn't agree more!



Access to LM4X Gets Easier

Readers may now access the current issue of LM4X, as well as archived earlier editions, online at <http://www.michigan.gov/lm4x>. Interested in receiving e-mail updates letting you know when the latest issue of LM4X is available? Sign up for these alerts by going to <http://www.michigan.gov/lm4x>.

Please send comments, suggestions or questions about LM4X to special collections librarian Gloriane Peck, peckg@michigan.gov.

LM News

Marshall District Library Wins State Librarian's Excellence Award

By Casey Warner, Department of History, Arts and Libraries Communications Office

The Marshall District Library in Marshall received the 2008 State Librarian's Excellence Award for exemplary public service. The Library of Michigan Foundation annually gives this prestigious honor, which includes a trophy and \$5,000 in privately raised funds to enhance library service, to one Michigan library. State Librarian Nancy Robertson presented the award in October during the Michigan Library Association annual conference in Kalamazoo.



The Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library in Alpena and the Dickinson County Library—with locations in Iron Mountain, Norway and Felch—each received a Library of Michigan Foundation Citation of Excellence, including a \$1,000 prize and a trophy.

The State Librarian's Excellence Award is sponsored by Hantz Group Inc. and EBSCO.

"This award program has helped to shine a spotlight on Michigan libraries' excellent service for eight years, but now is a particularly apt time to recognize the value of that service to communities around the state," said State Librarian Nancy Robertson. "In challenging economic times—which Michigan residents have been experiencing since well before the recent national crisis—library service is more in demand and more essential than ever. It's truly something to celebrate: libraries like these that consistently go above and beyond to meet citizens' needs for information, education, enrichment and much more."

"The board and staff of the Marshall District Library are thrilled to receive this award in recognition of their efforts to provide high-quality, relevant library services to all their district residents," said Director Laurie St. Laurent. She said the library plans to celebrate by launching new outreach services, including home delivery of library materials.

Located across the street from the local middle school, the Marshall District Library sees a large group of 10- to 14-year-old children visit on a regular basis. In response to the challenge this poses for its staff, space and programming resources, the library collaborated with area organizations that work with youth and with local professional artists to develop the Afterschool Arts Apprenticeship (AAA) program. This innovative program has resulted in the creation of nine new jobs employing local professional artists, a partnership with local galleries to rent downtown studio space for classes and the opportunity for young people to engage in entrepreneurial skill development.

The Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library and the Dickinson County Library also were recognized for their devotion to customer service. The only class V library in northern lower Michigan, the Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library serves a largely rural community of more than 30,000 people, in an area with unemployment that exceeds the state average. The library houses and coordinates the digitization of materials from the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary Research Collection—one of the largest collections anywhere of 19th-century Great Lakes maritime history—making it a place for visitors and researchers from far and wide to access a wealth of Great Lakes maritime information.

Situated in the Upper Peninsula, the Dickinson County Library understandably serves a population covering a wide area—27,000 county residents. Its breadth of geographic coverage is exemplified by the fact that the library offers a “Books by Mail” service for any county resident unable to access one of its three locations directly. The library encourages patrons to voice their concerns and input on materials and programs, and its director herself responds to patron communication.

This year’s State Librarian’s Excellence Award recipients were selected by a committee including the state librarian, the Library of Michigan’s Michigan eLibrary coordinator, the president of the Michigan Association for Media in Education, representatives of the Michigan Academic Library Council and the Michigan Library Association, the director of the Woodlands Library Cooperative, the director of the library that won last year’s award and the director of the Library of Michigan Foundation.

Learn more about Marshall District Library’s Afterschool Arts Apprenticeship program in *Your Good Ideas*, Page 12.

MAME Honors Library of Michigan Staff Members at November Conference

State Librarian Nancy Robertson and two additional Library of Michigan staff members were recognized for their commitment to librarianship at MAME’s (Michigan Association for Media in Education) November conference in Dearborn. Robertson earned the President’s Award for Outstanding Contributions to School Library Media, in recognition of exemplary leadership in creating the Michigan School Library Initiative to promote school library media programs throughout Michigan.

Sheryl Mase, director of statewide services at the Library of Michigan, received MAME’s award for Government Official of the Year, in recognition of exemplary leadership and dedication in promoting the importance of the library media profession.

Karren Reish, library grants and Michigan Center for the Book coordinator at the Library of Michigan, received MAME’s Margaret Grazier Award for Contribution to the Profession, in recognition of exemplary and sustained contributions to library media education and to regional, state and local media organizations.

Congratulations to Nancy, Sheryl and Karren on many jobs well done!

Family History Month Draws Genealogists to Library of Michigan

By Charles Hagler, special collections librarian

The Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries saw a steady stream of beginning and experienced genealogists at twice-weekly seminars during Family History Month in October.

The Library of Michigan and the Archives of Michigan conducted a different half-day workshop each week, offering both morning and afternoon sessions. Between 25 and 50 people attended each workshop.

“Family History Month annually encourages Michigan residents to discover their heritage and learn about what life was like for the generations who came before us,” said Randy Riley, special collections manager at the Library of Michigan. “We offer sessions for those just beginning to map their family trees, as well as programs exploring new and growing online resources of interest to researchers with varying levels of experience.”

This year’s topics included:

- Beginning genealogy
- Library of Michigan collection overview
- Archives of Michigan resources
- Michigan Cemetery Sources database
- Using city directories in family history research
- Polish resources at the Library
- Genealogy research on the Internet

For more information about the Library’s genealogy collection, services and events, please visit <http://www.michigan.gov/familyhistory>.



Rebecca Havenstein-Coughlin from Canton Public Library and her mom, Shirley Havenstein, work the Michigan table at the National Book Festival in September in Washington, D.C. Havenstein-Coughlin is the chair of the board of the Michigan Center for the Book.



Raccoon Tune author Nancy Shaw meets a fan at the Target Book Festival in August. Shaw visited libraries throughout the state in September to share her book with Michigan children.



Michigan Center for the Book Participates in National Book Festival

By Karren Reish, Michigan Center for the Book coordinator

The eighth annual National Book Festival was held Sept. 27 in Washington, D.C. The Michigan Center for the Book represented Michigan at the Pavilion of the States, thanks to a grant from the Council of State Agency Libraries and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Our display and materials focused on Michigan books, literary heritage and travel. Besides me, two Michigan Center for the Book board members from our affiliates, Rebecca Havenstein-Coughlin from Canton Public Library and Metta Lansdale from Royal Oak Public Library, worked at the booth.

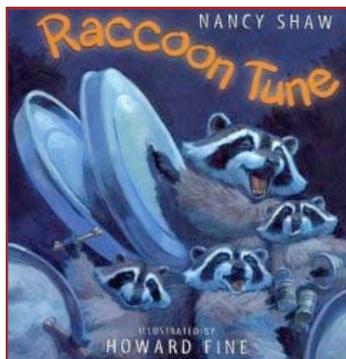
The Library of Congress reports that more than 120,000 people attended the festival, giving us a great crowd to talk to about Michigan. We talked to teachers about topics and materials for their classrooms, parents about creating and encouraging young readers, tourists about traveling to Michigan and many former Michiganians who wanted to say hello to their home state. Children's author Jon Scieszka presented at the festival and came over to our table to help for a while as well. He was wonderful with the children!

You can see the Michigan Memoirs book list printed for the festival at <http://www.michigan.gov/mcfb>, under the Michigan Book Lists section. Some of the other book lists on that page are from previous trips to the National Book Festival. If you are interested in the authors who spoke, including Salman Rushdie, Sandra Brown and Laura Bush, you can access podcasts of interviews and author talks from the 2008 festival and previous years at <http://www.loc.gov/podcasts>.

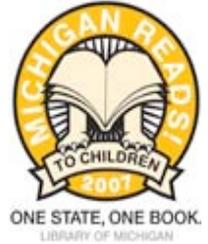
Michigan Reads! 2008 Reaches Children Statewide

By Jolee Hamlin, youth services contractor

Michigan Reads! 2008, highlighting *Raccoon Tune* by Nancy Shaw, is winding down! The Library of Michigan, with generous sponsorship by Target and the Library of Michigan Foundation, funded author visits by Shaw at several libraries around the state,



where more than 1,700 young Michiganians were able to enjoy *Raccoon Tune*. In September, Shaw visited Willard Public Library in Battle Creek, Grace A. Dow Memorial Library in Midland, Novi Public Library, Muskegon Area District Library, Benton Harbor Public Library, St. Clair County Library in Port Huron, Bay Mills Community College & Indian Community Library in Bay Mills and Otsego County Library in Gaylord. Additionally, many other libraries in Michigan hosted programs focusing on *Raccoon Tune* and utilizing the programming guide provided by the Library of Michigan.



In August, the Library kicked off Michigan Reads! 2008 with the Target Book Festival. Shaw signed books, and children enjoyed games and treats at the Library of Michigan booth. Performers on the grandstand entertained visitors of all ages throughout the day.

Michigan Reads! is a one state, one children's book program that highlights the importance of early childhood literacy by focusing on a picture book written by a Michigan author. Close to 5,000 kits were distributed to every public library building in Michigan, each public school serving kindergarten through second grade, Head Start agencies and Michigan School Readiness Programs. The kits included a hardcover copy of *Raccoon Tune*, a programming guide created specifically around *Raccoon Tune*, and a poster, stickers and bookmarks.

Plans already are under way for Michigan Reads! 2009. Book selection is based on several criteria including:

- appropriateness for preschoolers through second-graders;
- how well the book lends itself to programming; and
- that the book was written or illustrated by a living Michigan author or illustrator, preferably residing in Michigan.

Events Celebrate 50th Anniversary of Renowned Michigan Book *Anatomy of a Murder*

By Judith K. Moore, CFRE, executive director, Library of Michigan Foundation

This fall, the Library of Michigan and organizations around the state celebrated the 50th anniversary of the publication of *Anatomy of a Murder* by Michigan Supreme Court Justice John Voelker (written under the pen name Robert Traver). The book became a national bestseller and then a movie starring Jimmy Stewart as a character based on Voelker's experience as a defense attorney in an Upper Peninsula murder trial.

Continued

A series of free events celebrating Voelker's life and his literary and legal contributions took place Sept. 26-27 in Lansing, at the Michigan Supreme Court Hall of Justice, Cooley Law School and the Library of Michigan. Several events also were scheduled in September and October in Ishpeming and Marquette, including an exhibit of Voelker memorabilia and personal items, movie screenings, a concert and speaker presentations.



Julie Voelker Cohen (left) and Grace Wood stand next to a portrait of their father, Michigan Supreme Court Justice John Voelker, at a September reception at the Michigan Supreme Court Hall of Justice in Lansing. The reception honored the 50th anniversary of the publication of Voelker's book *Anatomy of a Murder*.

The anniversary events in Lansing included:

- The opening of the exhibit "Justice John D. Voelker: Bard of Frenchman's Pond" at the Michigan Supreme Court Hall of Justice, followed by a reception at Cooley Law School featuring the presentation of the Jimmy Stewart stamp issued by the United States Postal Service in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the publishing of *Anatomy of a Murder*.
- A daylong event at the Library of Michigan featuring panel discussions about Voelker's many accomplishments in the areas of law, the environment and justice for Native Americans, and his passion for fly-fishing. Screenings of the films *Trout Madness* and *Anatomy of an Author* were presented, along with discussions with the filmmakers. All the events were free and open to the public.

The *Anatomy of a Murder* 50th anniversary celebration was sponsored by Butzel Long; Loomis Law Firm; Dykema; The Reynolds Law Firm, P.C.; Fraser Trebilcock Davis & Dunlap, P.C.; Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP; Miller Canfield's Criminal Defense Team; Michigan Humanities Council; Sinas Dramis Law Firm; and State Bar of Michigan and Michigan State Bar Foundation.

The events were coordinated by the Library of Michigan, Library of Michigan Foundation, Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center, Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society, Cooley Law School, Northern Michigan University and Central U.P. Archives, Peter White Public Library, Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited, Grand Rapids Public Library, Bill Castanier and John D. Voelker Foundation.

***Blind Man's Bluff* Author Shares Her 'Journey to Acceptance' at Library of Michigan**

Author, social worker and motivational speaker Geri Taeckens shared her powerful story of life, loss and adaptation during a special presentation—"Journey to Acceptance"—Sept. 18 at the Library of Michigan. The presentation, which included readings and songs, drew patrons of the Library's Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (SBPH), teachers of students with disabilities and Library staff members.

Taeckens discussed her personal journey, from her struggle with losing her vision—which is depicted in her autobiographical novel, *Blind Man's Bluff*—to her eventual move to self-acceptance.

"Because Geri is inspiring on many different levels, her story is one that I think will resonate with people in many walks of life," State Librarian Nancy Robertson said. "She has a unique way of captivating an audience, engaging people in her narrative and tapping into that universal desire for acceptance."

Taeckens is also the author of two children's books/CDs: *Out of the Muck Grows a Lily and a Frog* and *Walking Along with My Dog*. She works as a school social worker and runs her own business, Accessibilities Educational-Therapeutic Services, and is the founder and operator of the Iris Seemore Animal Health Fund Inc., a nonprofit organization that raises money for service animals that are ill.

SBPH manager Susan Chinault said Taeckens is a terrific example of someone who has made the most of a challenging situation and embraced the many resources available to her. "It can be frightening to realize your vision is fading and will eventually be gone, but it helps to know that many people have faced that struggle and have found empowering ways to adapt and thrive," Chinault said. "The resources and tools available through SBPH are here to help Michigan residents restore a sense of personal power and quality of life."

Taeckens is the mother of a grown son and lives with her husband and dog guide in the Upper Peninsula.

Library Data Reporting and Usage

By Terri Doyen Assaf, library data coordinator

The 2008-09 annual report/state aid application filing season for Michigan public libraries began Oct. 1 and will conclude Feb. 1. Public libraries, library cooperatives, and regional and subregional libraries for the blind and physically handicapped must file to qualify for receipt of state aid to libraries.

In addition to being used in state aid qualification, information submitted on the annual report serves other important purposes. The state aid coordinator uses three areas of the public library form to determine whether aid requirements are met: local income, total amount of weekly open hours and certification of library personnel. Most of the report serves to fulfill federal data collection requirements for the nation's public libraries. Other areas of the report are intended to provide the library community with current data regarding location, contact information, millage rates, library board trustees, salary ranges and Internet connectivity.

Accurate data reporting is essential for the reliability of national public library statistics. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) oversees the program for the collection of U.S. public library data. All submitted data is vetted and analyzed in collaboration with the U.S. Census Bureau. Public library data files and reports can be accessed via the IMLS Library Statistics Web site, <http://harvester.census.gov/imls/publib.asp>. Reliable data also is crucial for Michigan's public libraries to perform comparative peer analyses and to quantify service measures. Statistical data for Michigan public libraries is available on the Library of Michigan Library Development and Data Services (LDDS) Web site, <http://www.michigan.gov/ldds>, under the heading Library Statistics and State Aid.

Continued

Library stakeholders often need to quantify library services. Reported data can be used in a number of ways to express a library's performance in relation to its peers. In addition to the Library's annual Data Digest publication and data available on the LDDS Web site, customized peer-comparison reports are available upon request. Recently, the Library of Michigan produced a Return on Investment Calculator to assist those library staff members, trustees and patrons interested in determining the dollar value returned on local library investment. This interactive tool is available at http://mel.org/files/calculator_code.php. The Library is pleased to offer this latest method for evaluating library services. A link for the calculator can be found on MeL, <http://mel.org>; the LDDS Web page, <http://www.michigan.gov/ldds>; and on the MeL information page, <http://www.michigan.gov/mel>.

We commend Michigan's public libraries for the diligence and precision with which they report library data during the annual state aid filing season. Many libraries already have submitted their 2008-09 applications, and almost all have tested their respective form for login accuracy. Questions or concerns regarding the application may be directed to Terri Assaf, library data coordinator, at (517) 373-3828 or assaft@michigan.gov.

Toll-Free Number Established for Accessing E-rate Information

By Sonya Schryer Norris, Web site administrator librarian

Michigan now has a toll-free number for obtaining information about any portion of the E-rate process. Michigan library staff with questions regarding E-rate may call (888) 307-6569 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

E-rate makes available to eligible libraries discounts for telecommunication services, Internet access and internal connections. The discount rate is based on the percentage of school children in your area eligible for a free or reduced-cost lunch. The program is intended to ensure that libraries have access to affordable telecommunications and information services.



E-rate can save your library money! For more information, please call the state's E-rate hotline at (888) 307-6569 or visit <http://www.michigan.gov/erateforlibraries>.

Library of Michigan to Join Plinkit Web Collaborative

By Sonya Schryer Norris, Web site administrator librarian

The Library of Michigan is pleased to announce that Michigan is joining Plinkit!

Plinkit is a nationwide collaborative designed to provide customized Web sites, particularly to small and rural libraries. These sites are individualized and technologically sophisticated, yet easy to control for library staff. Best of all, the Library of Michigan will be working with a contractor to provide hosting, and there will be no cost to Michigan libraries that would like to participate.

After minimal training, library staff will be able to log in from any Web browser and make updates to a Web site. Sites allow for searching the library's catalog, creating a calendar, accessing programming information, news and events, contact information and hours, and much more. Stay tuned for more information!

Here are some libraries that use Plinkit:

<http://www.hillsboro.plinkit.org>
<http://www.pendleton.plinkit.org>
<http://www.saladlibrary.org>

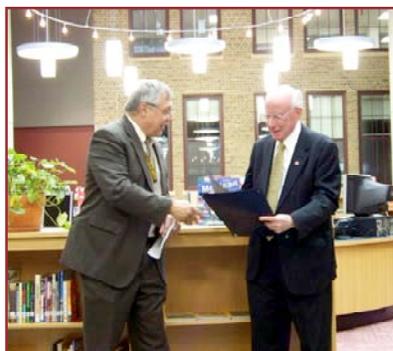
Reception Honors Ehlers for Contributions to Libraries

By Sheryl Mase, director, statewide services

Michigan library leaders gathered in October to celebrate U.S. Rep. Vernon Ehlers of Grand Rapids, who in May received the 2008 Public Service Award from the Friends of Libraries U.S.A. for his work in co-sponsoring the SKILLS Act. If the language of this act is included in the No Child Left Behind re-authorization legislation, it would require the placement of a state-certified school library media specialist in every school in the country.

The reception was held at Burton Elementary/Middle School in Grand Rapids, in the school's newly refurbished media center, which is housed in the enclosed former courtyard.

Offering praise for Ehlers' contributions were Grand Rapids Public Schools Superintendent Bernard Taylor, State Librarian Nancy Robertson, a representative of the Grand Rapids Public Library Friends group, Michigan Association for Media in Education (MAME) Executive Director Roger Ashley, MAME President-elect Kathleen McBroom and Grand Rapids Public Schools Director of Media Services Roger Schindler.



Grand Rapids Public Schools Director of Media Services Roger Schindler (left) honors U.S. Rep. Vernon Ehlers of Grand Rapids at a reception in October.

LM Foundation

'Museum Adventure Pass Presented by Macy's' Launches Second Year

By Judith K. Moore, CFRE, executive director,
Library of Michigan Foundation



On Oct. 25, Macy's, Detroit regional public libraries (through the Library of Michigan Foundation) and the Cultural Alliance of Southeastern Michigan launched the second year of the "Museum Adventure Pass presented by Macy's" program.

The "Museum Adventure Pass presented by Macy's" program is a partnership among Macy's, 179 metro Detroit libraries and 28 local arts and cultural organizations in Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Livingston, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne counties. The program is designed to enhance the learning experience for people of all ages through books and other library materials, and to provide complimentary access to arts and cultural organizations. In the first year of the program, Detroit regional public library cardholders received more than 100,000 free admissions to local museums, cultural centers and historical sites.



How the Program Works

Library users with a valid library card from one of the 179 participating Detroit regional public libraries can check out a Museum Adventure Pass at their local library. Library users receive a museum admission pass to hand in at the box office of the participating organization for free admission for two or four people. Each Museum Adventure Pass expires within one week from the date of checkout.

Each library branch and bookmobile has five passes for each of the participating organizations available for patrons to check out. Library cardholders who check out a Museum Adventure Pass receive a comprehensive brochure about the program and can go online at <http://www.detroitadventurepass.org> to find a list of suggested readings, CDs and DVDs to complement their museum experience.

Participating organizations:

- Anton Art Center
- Arab American National Museum
- Arts & Scraps
- Automotive Hall of Fame
- Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center
- Birmingham Bloomfield Historical Museum
- Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History
- Cranbrook Art Museum
- Cranbrook House & Garden
- Cranbrook Institute of Science
- Detroit Artists Market



- Detroit Children's Museum
- Detroit Historical Museum
- Detroit Institute of Arts
- Dossin Great Lakes Museum
- Edsel and Elenor Ford House
- Ford Rouge Factory Tour
- Grosse Pointe Historical Society
- Henry Ford Estate, Fair Lane
- Howell Nature Center
- Lorenzo Cultural Center
- Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit
- Pewabic Pottery
- Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm
- The Scarab Club
- University of Michigan Exhibit Museum of Natural History
- Wyandotte Museum
- Ypsilanti Historical Museum

The Library of Michigan Foundation is thrilled to be a part of this innovative program that recognizes how libraries are engaged in the cultural development of their communities and introduces metro Detroit residents to the region's wonderful arts and cultural organizations.

This is a program that can be replicated in other parts of the state. For more information, please contact Judith Moore at (517) 373-4470 or moorej10@michigan.gov.

Principally Preservation

Library Collection Preservation Resources Available on LM Web Site



By Kevin Driedger, cataloger and collections conservator

Michigan libraries can now find relevant and accurate preservation information through the Library of Michigan's Web site. Library staff members have selected resources geared specifically for libraries and divided them into the following categories:

- Training – links to both online and live training opportunities as well as some online videos depicting different preservation techniques.
- Information Resources – links to sources of reliable and comprehensive information including general preservation, book repair, disaster planning and area preservation services.
- Funding – links to funding opportunities for preservation activities.
- Presentations – handouts and other resources from Library of Michigan activities. Currently this includes the handouts from the Library's book repair workshop, as well as an Excel file template for creating simple clamshell boxes.

Continued

To access these resources from the Library's Web site, <http://www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan>, click on the link in the left rail to Services and Collections; from the Services and Collections Web page, click on the link to Library Collection Preservation. Or go directly to the page at http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17449_51722---,00.html.

If there are resources you would like to suggest for these pages, please contact Kevin Driedger at kdriedger@michigan.gov.

Library of Michigan Offers Preservation Workshops

By Kevin Driedger, cataloger and collections conservator

In 2009 the Library of Michigan will offer two preservation workshops intended for public libraries. Both workshops will be led by Library of Michigan collections conservator Kevin Driedger.

- **Book Repair:** This daylong workshop will introduce the participant to the tools, supplies and techniques needed to do basic repair of books in circulating collections. Kevin has taught this popular, hands-on workshop for several years.
- **Preserving Special Collections in Public Libraries:** This new half-day workshop will introduce participants to caring for local history materials, special collections and other ephemera. It will include presentations, discussion and hands-on activities.

To inquire about scheduling a workshop in your area, contact the Library's continuing education coordinator, Betsy Hull, at hullb1@michigan.gov.

Career Day Student Learns About Conservation

By Kevin Driedger, cataloger and collections conservator

I recently had the pleasure of spending a fun afternoon with a student on her career day project. Rachel, a high school freshman from Sparta, was interested in history and books but had little prior awareness of book conservation.

Upon entering the conservation lab, she assumed the appearance of a conservator and put on a work smock.

Because of her interest in history, I talked about how my work requires understanding the history of the book and printing, and how bookbinding has changed over the years. I demonstrated this with volumes from the 16th to the 20th centuries from the Library's rare book collection. I explained some of the



Rachel, a high school freshman from Sparta, and Kevin Driedger, Library of Michigan cataloger and collections conservator, during Rachel's career day visit to the Library.

tools, supplies and equipment I use to conserve our collections. I demonstrated some book and paper mending techniques and showed her some custom enclosures used to house fragile materials. Finally, she had the opportunity to get her fingers a little gluey and mend a damaged book.

Rachel completed her time at the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries with a tour of the Archives of Michigan by archivist Bob Garrett.

Get Smart

Library of Michigan Welcomes New Continuing Education Coordinator

By Gloriane Peck, special collections librarian

Betsy Hull joined the Library of Michigan in September as the Library's continuing education coordinator.



Betsy Hull

Previously the director of Bentley Memorial Library in Perry and Community District Library in Corunna, Betsy was drawn to continuing education because it affects all library staff members, at all libraries, no matter the size or type.

"I was interested in doing something on a more strategic and statewide level," she said.

Betsy said her plans for her new post include offering online continuing education courses and posting a six-month or yearlong calendar of events to help people to plan their continuing education schedules. "We're also looking at the ability to do Web conferences to make it more convenient for people to participate," she said.

A native of Albion, Betsy has her master's degree in library science from Wayne State University. Before entering the library profession, Betsy owned a family restaurant, and she worked for several newspapers and magazines in the Detroit and Flint areas.

Between the Library of Michigan, library cooperatives, the Michigan Library Association, the Michigan Library Consortium and programs at individual libraries, Betsy said, library staff members, the Michigan Library Consortium are able to find opportunities for growth throughout the state. "Our profession has been able to offer numerous and diverse opportunities for continuing education," she said. "It's important for libraries of all types to promote continuing education. You can't go stale and still do your job well and enjoy yourself in this profession."

LM Offers Online Options for Continuing Education

By Betsy Hull, continuing education coordinator

The Library of Michigan is making earning continuing education units easier on your schedule and your gas tank.

First, check out http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17451_18668_18685---,00.html. Under the heading Online Education is a list of sources already approved for CEUs. You'll find topics on everything from specific software applications to weeding. The courses are self-paced.

It's great to travel to different libraries and meet other librarians, but sometimes budgets and time don't allow for that. That's why these online sources are a great way to supplement those in-person workshops.

These courses have been approved for certification by LM staff. Just as important, they offer ways to help strengthen your skills and expand your knowledge of library services. These are high-level courses that are designed to help new staff, but also may provide a challenge to longtime librarians.

Second, the Library of Michigan will offer courses through WebJunction this spring. Again, you'll find a wide range of topics, from accounting to Web design. Typically, these courses would cost about \$40 each to complete. However, the Library will offer them at no charge to librarians.

Also, there are plans to offer Web conferencing through a product called WIMBA, which will help LM provide training to different librarians at different libraries at the same time. WIMBA will let the Library push out training to librarians with access to a workstation with current video and audio capabilities. How's that for technology 2.0?

For updates on these upcoming developments, please visit the Library Development and Data Services Web page at <http://www.michigan.gov/ldds> and click on the continuing education link. Information also will be sent to michlib-l and included in future issues of *LM4X*.

Questions? Contact Betsy Hull, continuing education coordinator, at (517) 373-3746 or hullb1@michigan.gov.

Rural Libraries Conference in Final Planning Stages

By Betsy Hull, continuing education coordinator

Plans are nearly complete for the 2009 Loleta Fyan Small and Rural Libraries Conference, scheduled for April 29 through May 1 at the Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City.

"Small Libraries, Big Service" is the theme next year, and the Library of Michigan has dozens of workshops planned for your enjoyment. Meal speakers are Joseph Heywood, who has penned thrillers, poetry and outdoor books, as well as the Woods Cop mystery series set in Michigan, and Gijsbert "Nick" van Frankenhuyzen, a well-known illustrator of children's books. Two other authors on the schedule are Lorri Hathaway and Sharon Kegerreis,

who wrote *From the Vine: Exploring Michigan Wineries*, a 2008 Michigan Notable Book.

Early-bird registration will be \$125, which covers all meals and workshops. Participants are responsible for their own rooms, which will be available at the Grand Traverse Resort at a special conference rate. For schedule, program and registration updates, please watch the Library Development and Data Services Web site, <http://www.michigan.gov/ldds> and the michlib-l listserv.

Since March, several librarians have spent many hours planning for the Rural Libraries Conference. A big pre-conference thank you to steering committee coordinators Pam Christensen, Glenda Middleton, Angela Semifero and Trixie Wint, as well as to Library staff members Sheryl Mase, Sonya Norris and Karren Reish.

Contact Betsy Hull, continuing education coordinator, at (517) 373-3746 or hullb1@michigan.gov if you have questions about "Small Libraries, Big Service."

Mahoney Workshops Highlight Early Childhood Literacy

By Jolee Hamlin, youth services contractor



Saroj Ghoting, early childhood literacy consultant to ALA and PLA, shares ideas for reaching early readers at the Mahoney Workshop in August.

More than 75 librarians statewide attended the 2008 Mahoney Workshops, which focused on "Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library: The Fun and Facts of Early Childhood Literacy."

Saroj Ghoting, early childhood literacy consultant to the American Library Association and the Public Library Association, hosted these dynamic, informative and practical workshops. Attendees learned practical ways to reach early readers outside of the library and to pass on early childhood literacy information in a seamless manner through story times and caregiver interactions.

The Mahoney Fund, a Library of Michigan Foundation endowment fund that makes high-quality training available to youth services professionals at a low cost throughout Michigan, underwrites the Mahoney Workshops.

The workshops were hosted by Bullard Sanford Memorial Library in Vassar, Otsego County Library in Gaylord and Munising School Public Library.

MeL.org – The Library Made with Me in Mind

MeL News: MORE, Michigan and MeL Team

By Deb Biggs Thomas, MeL coordinator



In the Summer 2008 issue of *LM4X*, we introduced a new component to MeL, the Michigan eLibrary (<http://mel.org>): the Michigan Educators' Resources (MER). Since that article, there has been a name change from MER to MORE, Michigan Online Resources for Educators. So, now there is MORE in MeL!

We have been speaking at educators' conferences around the state about this excellent resource for teachers, and we hope that you will promote it in your library to teachers, homeschool families, college students in education programs and parents. MORE points to thousands of free, Web-based resources such as lesson plans, videos, podcasts, interactive Web sites and educational games that are aligned to and searchable by Michigan's Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCEs).

In 2005, 10 Digitization for Preservation and Access grants were awarded to digitize valuable and significant local and state-related information held in Michigan libraries and to make such resources easily available via MeL.

Ruth Ann Jones and Theresa Moore from the Michigan State University Libraries recently worked with us to develop marketing materials for these new collections: a poster, brochure and postcards. These promotional pieces showcase images from the participating library collections, which feature primary source materials such as photographs, diaries, maps, oral histories and more. You can find a listing of the collections, as well as links to them, on MeL Michigana, <http://mel.org/michigana>. Once there, you also will find the best Web sites for Michigan History and About Michigan. We are grateful to the Library of Michigan Foundation for providing the funding to promote the use of these digital collections in MeL Michigana. Requests for promotional materials can be sent to biggsthomasd@michigan.gov.

It is our pleasure to officially introduce a new member of the MeL team at LM! Library grants analyst Kyle Ripley has joined us to work with collecting, compiling and analyzing use statistics from MeL's database vendors. In addition, Kyle will work on marketing projects, and she will be building out a number of the best Web sites in the MeL gateways. We are delighted to have Kyle working with us to make MeL an even better resource for all of Michigan!

MeL by the Numbers



As of Nov. 1, 2008:

- Total number of libraries activated: 320
 - Academic: 39
 - Public: 258
 - K-12: 17
 - Special and tribal: 6
- Items available in MeLCat: 30.7 million (8.19 million bibliographic records)
- Average weekly MeLCat requests: 12,560
- So far in 2008, MeLCat has had 552,649 requests, with a fulfillment rate of 89.2 percent

QSAC: Quality Counts

QSAC News and Events

By Betsy Hull, continuing education coordinator

In September, the Public Libraries of Saginaw achieved the Quality Services Audit Checklist enhanced level. Director Trish Burns and her staff are to be congratulated for the effort they gave to review the services they provide to their constituents.

Already 151 libraries in Michigan have achieved the QSAC essential level since 2004, when the program began. Saginaw becomes the 29th library to document its efforts to reach the enhanced level while three Michigan libraries have reached the excellent level.

Other states have something similar to QSAC that provides a common standard of practice or service. These "checklists" help librarians to look at these common standards and internally ask, "How are we doing?" These standards are meant to polish our strengths and to reveal weakness so we can better focus our work on improvement.

These measures can be used to educate staff, trustees, local politicians and state legislators about your library's needs and accomplishments. These measures also can show what you have achieved with your current budget as well as what more could be achieved with more money.

Take a look at the QSAC Web page for details about the process. QSAC is online at www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17451_45510---,00.html. If you have questions, please contact Betsy Hull at (517) 373-3746 or hullb1@michigan.gov.

They Want to Do What with the Money?

By Lance M. Werner, library law specialist



Money is tight. Money, or lack thereof, has been an ever-increasing issue as of late. Lack of money creates a variety of tough situations. This seems especially true for public libraries that receive appropriations from municipalities. I keep hearing sad stories from my colleagues in the field, and so I felt that it would be useful to discuss some issues related to library funding. More specifically, I think that it would be useful to discuss the library fund, uses of penal fines, state aid and library millages, and explain who has the authority to spend these funds and what they may be spent on.

Library Fund

There are a number of different statutes that require establishment of a “library fund.” The purpose of the library fund is to serve as the location where monies collected on behalf of a public library are to be deposited. Some examples of statutory mandates requiring the establishment of library funds can be found in sections 1, 10 and 10a of the City, Village and Township Libraries Act, 1877 PA 164, MCL 397.201, 397.210 and 397.210a, and sections 4 and 12 of the District Library Establishment Act, 1989 PA 24, MCL 397.174 and 397.182.

Under the City, Village and Township Libraries Act, the library fund must be set up by the municipal government and maintained by the municipal treasurer. Although the municipal treasurer is statutorily obliged to maintain the fund in the same manner as all other municipal funds, it is the library board that has the exclusive authority to authorize any disbursement out of the fund. District libraries are required to establish their own library funds, and their boards have complete authority over disbursement of any monies out of the fund. County library boards have exclusive authority of all disbursements from the county library fund, and school boards have the authority to authorize disbursements out of the school district public library fund.

State Aid, Penal Fines and Millages

Section 21 of State Aid to Public Libraries Act, 1977 PA 89, MCL 397.571, gives library boards broad discretion to decide how to spend state aid funds. Section 21 provides:

Sec. 21.

State aid paid to a cooperative library or a public library may be used for any expenditure, including the cost of intersystem or intrasystem contracts.

There are a couple of issues here that must be mentioned. The first is that state aid proceeds are library monies, and as such must be deposited in the

library fund. Again, generally speaking and with exception to school boards that govern school district public libraries, library boards have exclusive authority to authorize the expenditure of any funds out of the library fund. This means that it is a library board, and not a municipal board, that has the authority to decide how to use state aid funds.

The second issue is that although Section 21 specifies that state aid can be used for any expenditure, it must be used for any library expenditure. A clear reading of the title and purpose of the State Aid Act supports this assertion. The bottom line is, this state aid is for support of Michigan’s public libraries and cooperatives. It should not be used for any other purpose. This probably is not anything new to the library community, but may be news to some local governments.

Penal fines, like state aid funds, have been legally earmarked as support for Michigan’s public libraries. Michigan law designating penal fines for support of Michigan’s public libraries pre-dates statehood.

The contemporary constitutional provision reaffirming use of penal fines by public libraries can be found in Section 9, of Article 8 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, which states:

Sec. 9.

The Legislature shall provide by law for the establishment and support of public libraries that shall be available to all residents of the state under regulations adopted by the governing bodies thereof. All fines assessed and collected in the several counties, townships and cities for any breach of the penal laws shall be exclusively applied to the support of such public libraries, and county law libraries as provided by law.

The constitutional mandate provided by Section 9 is implemented by the Distribution of Penal Fines to Public Libraries Act (the Act), 1964 PA 59, MCL 397.31 *et seq.* Section 6 of the Act provides:

Sec. 6.

The penal fine moneys when received by the proper authorities shall be applied exclusively to the support of public libraries and to no other purpose except as provided in Section 7 (for county libraries). A report shall be made annually to the state board for libraries as to the receipt and expenditures of the penal fine moneys, and other public moneys, by the governing boards of the public libraries or by the county library boards.

Based on the legal authority regarding this issue, there can be no question that penal fines furnished to public libraries may only be used for library purposes.

Millages are another commonly relied-upon source of funding for Michigan’s public libraries. Occasionally I will receive a question as to what types of things millage monies can be used for. Under Michigan law, millage funds can only be used for the purposes stated in the ballot language. This means that if the ballot language furnishes that the millage is for library purposes, it can only be used for library purposes.

Continued

Conclusion

All three of the different funding mechanisms briefly discussed above will yield funds that will undoubtedly end up in a library fund. Funds from these sources have been legally designated for library use and cannot be used for other non-library purposes. I wrote this article and make this point because these are tough financial times and, more and more, I receive calls about non-library entities eyeballing library funds. So I figured it would be a good idea to discuss this matter at the beginning of this trend rather than at the end.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lance M. Werner, library law specialist at the Library of Michigan, Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries, at (517) 373-1299 or wernerl@michigan.gov.

Your Good Ideas

Marshall District Library Serves the After-School Crowd with Arts Partnership

By Laurie St. Laurent, director, Marshall District Library

Like many public libraries across Michigan, the Marshall District Library is challenged to provide services to large numbers of youth during the after-school period of 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. MDL administration and staff chose to look at this challenge as an opportunity with the potential for building future library supporters. Special-focus, in-library programming has been developed and is presented by library staff members three days a week, including movies, open computer lab time and do-it-yourself craft days alternating with electronic gaming days.

Accommodating 40 to 80 students daily (the library only has seats for 35 youth) prompted MDL to call a town meeting in 2007, inviting all the relevant organizations, agencies and governments in our district area to come together to discuss the need to provide engaging, supervised activities for youth ages 9 to 15. Out of that meeting came the highly successful partnership among local artists, arts businesses and MDL, which is known as the Afterschool Arts Apprenticeship (AAA) program. Working as a team, professional artist instructors and the library staff designed several studios that would be held off-site in a local arts cooperative, EastEnd Studio & Gallery.

In the AAA program, students ages 9 to 15 are invited to apprentice with professional artists to work in the media of fused glass, textiles, clay, culinary and technology arts. Works created in the free weekly studio sessions are marketed in the EastEnd Studio & Gallery, with student apprentices involved in the pricing and display of their products. MDL supports artist/teachers and student apprentices with resource materials, access to computer technology and fiscal administration. The AAA program is fully supported by grant funds received from the Youth Advisory Council of the Marshall Community Foundation, the Cronin Foundation, the Marshall Rotary Foundation and the Community Foundation Alliance of Calhoun County.

More than 200 students have been engaged in the studio sessions in the past year. During the studio sessions, apprentices have been introduced to design

concepts, techniques, marketing, packaging and sales of their creations. The proceeds from the sales of student work contribute to the support of future AAA offerings.

The Marshall District Library has been delighted with the community support of this program. Grant funding from local foundations continues to support the AAA series, and several student apprentices have launched their own arts businesses as a result of the training they received from their artist mentors. In addition, MDL has contributed to the economic development of the region by offering part-time employment to several professional artists and by increasing traffic in at least one local business. Young people express appreciation for the efforts made by MDL to create opportunities for them to explore potential careers in the arts.

The Afterschool Arts Apprenticeship program, a partnership of the Marshall District Library and EastEnd Studio & Gallery, has recently received the Michigan Downtown Conference Planning Partners Innovation Award for 2008. The award recognizes the library for its creative approach to addressing the communitywide challenge of unsupervised youth in the hours after the end of the school day.

For more information about Marshall District Library, please go to <http://www.marshalldistrictlibrary.org>.

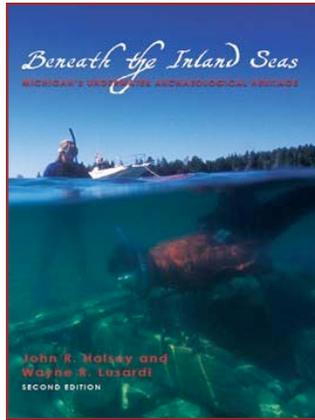
HAL Highlights

'Pure Michigan' Gift Ideas for Book Lovers

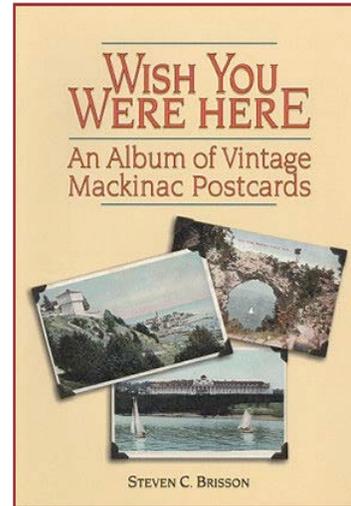
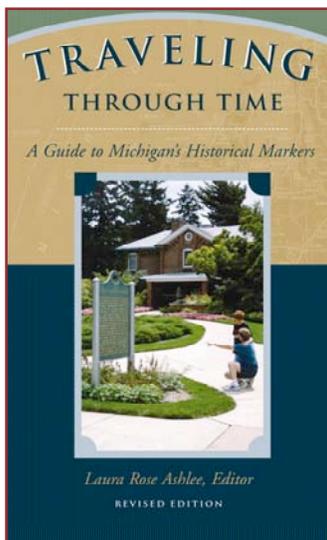
By Casey Warner, Department of History, Arts and Libraries
Communications Office

Looking for the perfect present or stocking stuffer for the bibliophile on your shopping list? Want to give out-of-town friends and family a taste of Michigan's unique flavor? You might find a great gift idea among the following unique books.

Beneath the Inland Seas: Michigan's Underwater Archaeological Heritage, edited by State Archaeologist John R. Halsey and State Maritime Archaeologist Wayne R. Lusardi, provides—in addition to historical background material—information on new discoveries, new ideas and new facilities regarding underwater archaeology during the last 20 years. A major addition to this long-awaited, new and improved second edition of the book are vignettes of 19 shipwrecks, including at least one from each of 11 Michigan bottomland preserves—the areas where there are the greatest concentration of shipwrecks and are protected by the state—written by the archaeologists, historians and sport divers who know them best. Call *Michigan History* magazine at (800) 366-3703 to purchase a copy and have it shipped.

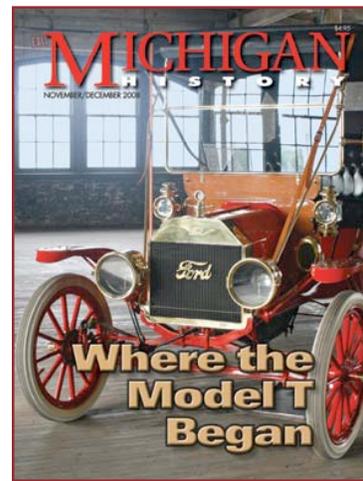


Traveling Through Time: A Guide to Michigan's Historical Markers, edited by Laura Rose Ashlee, is the definitive illustrated guide to nearly 1,500 Michigan historical markers, updated and revised. This guidebook includes the full text and location of official state markers. With historic and contemporary illustrations, the book is a must-have for armchair historians, travelers and researchers alike. *Traveling Through Time* is available at Michigan booksellers and through online bookstores, or by calling the Michigan Historical Museum Store at (517) 373-1375. You also may e-mail toshachm@michigan.gov to order a copy.



Mackinac State Historic Parks offers a variety of books about the history of Mackinac Island, Fort Mackinac, Colonial Michilimackinac and more, including children's books, photo compilations and even a cookbook. Browse the list of available titles at

<http://www.mackinacparks.com/parks/books—museum-publications>.



Need a gift for the history buff on your list? How about a subscription (or a single issue as a stocking stuffer) to *Michigan History* magazine? Published since 1917, *Michigan History* is about—and a part of—Michigan's fascinating past. Every colorful 64-page issue tells the exciting stories of Michigan people and their impact on their communities, the nation and the world. *Michigan History* overflows with intriguing feature articles, bold illustrations and departments highlighting history-related books, travel and events six times each year. For more information, visit <http://www.michiganhistorymagazine.com>.

And don't forget all of the great titles on the Michigan Notable Books list—the Library of Michigan's annual selection of up to 20 recommended books reflecting Michigan's diverse ethnic, historical, literary and cultural experience. The 2008 list demonstrates the variety present both in Michigan life and in its literature: conversations with President Gerald Ford; the involvement of and impact on Michigan in the Civil War, World War II and Vietnam War; poetry that celebrates Michigan's natural wonders; novels that use Michigan backgrounds to tell stories of family or intrigue; and tributes to Michigan's unique art, architecture and music, and the finest in Michigan foods and wines. To see the 2009 Michigan Notable Books list, and previous years' selections dating back to 1996, visit <http://www.michigan.gov/notablebooks>.

