



Library of Michigan's Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2008

*In Every
Issue*



MAME Executive Director Roger Ashley (right) and Elaine Logan, Eastern Michigan University associate university librarian, congratulate U.S. Rep. Vernon Ehlers of Grand Rapids on receiving the FOLUSA 2008 Public Service Award.

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News from Nancy

State Librarian Nancy R. Robertson

Meetings in Washington, D.C., are always full of interesting content and ample discussion, with the added bonus of experiencing a vibrant city that is unlike any other.



Each spring, the 50-plus state librarians (Chief Officers of State Library Agencies or COSLA) gather prior to the American Library Association National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. While each state's library is unique, we collectively face challenges and seek solutions to better our national library landscape. COSLA can interact with foundations and governmental entities more powerfully as a group than we each could as individual states. It's true: "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts."

In May, we engaged in discussion with representatives from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, as well as the head of the ALA Washington Office. We heard COSLA liaison reports about the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped cassette to digital transition; the consolidation of the National Center for Education Statistics into IMLS; the Urban Libraries Council; and the Government Printing Office.

ALA National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) came on the heels of the COSLA meeting. Michigan's delegation of six was small but mighty and included myself; Elaine Logan, Eastern Michigan University associate university librarian and Library of Michigan board chair; Mike Smith, director of the Reuther Library at Wayne State University and a member of the Library of Michigan board; Pam Christensen, director of the Peter White Public Library in Marquette; Roger Mendel, director of the Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative; and Roger Ashley, executive director of the Michigan Association for Media in Education.

We made personal contact in each Michigan congressional district, voicing the importance of federal funding and legislation to support all types of Michigan libraries. The response from every office was encouraging, and I hope for an even larger Michigan ALA NLLD delegation next year, May 11-12, 2009!

Finally, Elaine Logan and Roger Ashley attended the NLLD closing reception, at which U.S. Rep. Vernon Ehlers of Grand Rapids 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 America! That is definitely skillful lawmaking.

Keep cool!

Nancy

LM News

Grant Program Intent to File Forms Due June 30

By Karren Reish, LSTA coordinator



Intent to File forms for the Library of Michigan's new Modeling the Future competitive grant program are due June 30. These forms are required for participation. Application workshops will be scheduled in August in response to the Intent to File forms. Grant applications will be due Dec. 1.

There are many changes in the program process, so the Modeling the Future FAQ is available at <http://www.michigan.gov/lsta>, along with the program handbook and application packet. First and foremost, to be eligible to apply, libraries must submit an Intent to File form. Second, projects will include the creation of a scalable project manual for use by other libraries. Finally, cash matches will no longer be required.

Look for more information on the Modeling the Future grant program at <http://www.michigan.gov/lsta> or contact Karren Reish at kreish@michigan.gov or (517) 241-0021.

2008 Michigan Reads! Kicks Off Aug. 23

The 2008 Michigan Reads! program will begin Aug. 23 at the Target Book Festival at the Kensington Metropark in Milford. Featuring *Raccoon Tune* by Michigan author Nancy Shaw, Michigan Reads! is a one-state, one-children's-book program devoted to increasing early childhood literacy, with programming, events and author visits slated to take place throughout September.

For the second year in a row, Target is the sole sponsor of Michigan Reads! Thanks to Target's support, the Library of Michigan will provide a copy of the book and programming materials to public libraries, elementary schools, Head Start and Michigan School Readiness programs across the state. These kits will go out in early August. Target's support also will allow Shaw to tour libraries and schools in September.

Raccoon Tune - written by Shaw and illustrated by Howard Fine - tells the story of a family of mischievous raccoons on a rollicking night out-ing, rifling through sleeping people's trash in search of treats.

More information about Michigan Reads! 2008, including dates and locations of author visits, will be posted on the program's Web site at www.michigan.gov/michiganreads in the coming months.

Piece Together Your Ancestral Puzzles: Abrams Genealogy Seminar Set for July 25-26

By *Kris Rzepczynski*,
Michigan/genealogy coordinator



The Library of Michigan is pleased to announce the 2008 Abrams Genealogy Seminar, Piecing Together Our Past, to be held Friday and Saturday, July 25-26 at the Michigan Library and Historical Center.

This third annual event will feature Dr. George K. Schweitzer, one of the country's most popular genealogical speakers and author of a number of genealogical books. Dr. Schweitzer's keynote address on Saturday morning, co-sponsored by the Ingham County Genealogical Society, will be "Tracing Ancestors Across the Atlantic." He also will give another program later in the day, "Civil War Genealogy." Those familiar with Dr. Schweitzer will recall that he gives his programs in period costume.



The Abrams Genealogy Seminar represents a unique opportunity for researchers to spend two days at the Library and learn about any number of topics, including newspapers, Michigan vital records, city directories, Michigan township research and much more. A continuing feature from previous seminars is a library and archives research track, in which Michigan facilities with extensive genealogical and historical holdings outline their collections. Participating libraries and archives this year are the Library of Michigan, the Archives of Michigan, the Public Libraries of Saginaw and the Loutit District Library in Grand Haven. The complete schedule of events is:

Friday, July 25

12:30 - 1 p.m.

- Archives of Michigan tour

1 - 1:30 p.m.

- Library of Michigan tour

1:30 - 2 p.m.

- Library of Michigan tour

2:15 - 3:15 p.m.

- **Finding Revolutionary War Ancestors at the Library of Michigan** - Edwina Morgan, Library of Michigan: From Maine to Georgia and all the way to Illinois, the Library of Michigan has materials to help you research your Revolutionary ancestors.
- **Genealogical Research at the Library of Michigan** - Randy Riley, Library of Michigan: The Library of Michigan houses one of the country's largest genealogical collections. Learn about the Library's geographic areas of emphasis, key and unique resources, and how to maximize your research time here.

3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

- **Coloring Your Ancestors Alive!** - Karen Krugman, professional researcher: Bring your ancestors to life with color; add more than just names and dates to your genealogy files.
- **Researching in Michigan Townships** - John Castle, Ingham County Genealogical Society: Examine several dozen types of township records. What is in these old records that might provide details of the lives of our ancestors, and where do we find them? Original grassroots records have been stored in township halls for the past 170-plus years, just waiting to be discovered. A genealogical gold mine!
- **Treasures of the Archives of Michigan** - Robert Garrett, Archives of Michigan: Treasures can sometimes be hidden in plain sight. Learn about the genealogical resources available at the Archives of Michigan—including Michigan naturalization records, property records, military records, photographs and more—and how to access them online and in the Archives' reading room.

Saturday, July 26

9:30 - 10:45 a.m.

- **Welcome and Presentation of Library of Michigan Genealogy Appreciation Award** - Randy Riley, Library of Michigan
- **Keynote address: Tracing Ancestors Back Across the Atlantic** - Dr. George K. Schweitzer, co-sponsored by the Ingham County Genealogical Society

11 a.m. - noon

- **Seeking Michigan Death Records? A New Digitization Project** - Kris Rzepczynski, Library of Michigan: The Library of Michigan is digitizing its collection of Michigan death records from 1897 to 1920. Totalling nearly 1 million records, these images will be free and fully searchable on the in-the-works Seeking Michigan Web site. See what content will be available and catch a glimpse of what the site will become as additional genealogical resources are added.

Continued

- **Genealogical Gems of the Public Libraries of Saginaw** - John Sheridan, Public Libraries of Saginaw: The Local History and Genealogical Collection of the Public Libraries of Saginaw has become one of the premier local history collections in the Midwest, serving students and specialists equally well in the fields of genealogy and Saginaw history, with more than 18,000 books, microforms, archive collections and periodicals.

Noon - 1 p.m.

- Lunch

1 - 2 p.m.

- **Civil War Genealogy** - Dr. George K. Schweitzer

2:15 - 3:15 p.m.

- **Newspapers: Three Generations “In the News”** - Ceil Wendt Jensen, certified genealogist: Newspapers are a great resource for information on the life and times of your ancestors. Follow a family for three generations in community and regional newspapers. Ideas are included on how to use current global newspapers to obtain information.
- **Your Best Find: Share Your Success Stories** - Gloriane Peck, Library of Michigan: Celebrate your greatest research success by sharing your story with fellow genealogists. Let this discussion inspire you to revisit brick walls as you hear how others uncovered the paths of their own elusive ancestors.
- **Local History as Context: Resources for Genealogists** - Mark Bowden, Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library: How does one go beyond compiling names and dates on a pedigree? Discover the many resources available for placing your ancestor’s life in historical context.

3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

- **City Directories as Research Tools** - Charles Hagler, Library of Michigan: Explore the type of information found in city directories that can assist you in your genealogical and historical research, as well as how directories can provide a snapshot of your family’s place in their local community.
- **Researching at the Loutit District Library in Grand Haven** - Jeanette Weiden, Loutit District Library: Learn what makes the Loutit District Library’s Local History and Genealogy Department unique, such as the digitization of the photograph collection and oral histories. Also learn about the library’s ongoing volunteer projects of indexing birth, marriage and obituary information from the *Grand Haven Tribune*.

Registration is \$40 and includes the seminar syllabus and lunch on Saturday. Ingham County Genealogical Society members are eligible for a discounted registration rate of \$25. Additional information about the Abrams Genealogy Seminar and the registration form are available online at <http://www.michigan.gov/familyhistory>. Questions? Please contact the Library at (517) 373-1300 or librarian@michigan.gov.

We hope to see everyone for a fantastic seminar in July!

Genealogy Workshops Grow, Attract Library Staff

By Gloriane Peck, special collections librarian

The Library of Michigan’s genealogy workshops continue to draw a growing number of people, including many first-time visitors and beginning genealogists. Library staffers from around the state also are making a point to attend these programs so they may better serve patrons interested in genealogy.

More than 300 people attended the free seminar Learning More at the Library of Michigan on March 29 to explore online tools for family history research. Visitors came from throughout Michigan, including as far as the Upper Peninsula, and many made a day of it, spending the morning researching at one of the 10 largest genealogy collections in the country before going to the afternoon program.

“Thank you!! I enjoyed learning more about the Library of Michigan firsthand and look forward to more visits in the future,” Mary Houghton wrote in her evaluation of the March seminar. Houghton is the local historian at Albion District Library. “I will gladly pass this info on to our library staff and patrons.”

Other participants praised the seminar handouts, which included recommended Web sites and books, how-to information and more.

“The information was awesome,” one participant wrote on the program evaluation. “I have run into some roadblocks and can now forge ahead with the new information that I received today.”

PDFs of the PowerPoint slides and handouts from the Learning More seminar are available online. Go to <http://www.michigan.gov/familyhistory> and click on the Genealogy Workshops link.

Abrams Genealogy Seminar 2008

July 25-26 at the Library of Michigan

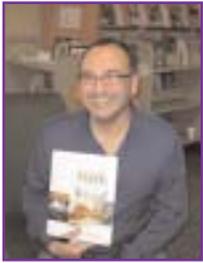
On the Web

For more information: <http://www.michigan.gov/familyhistory>
Ingham County Genealogical Society: <http://www.ingcogenesoc.org>
Dr. George K. Schweitzer: <http://www.gensources.com>

2008 Michigan Notable Books Author Tour

The Library of Michigan's 2008 Michigan Notable Books author tour, featuring 13 of the authors of the 20 award-winning books published in 2007, this spring visited more than 50 communities across the state. The tour began April 10 and continued until June 17.

The Library of Michigan and the Library of Michigan Foundation honored the 2008 Michigan Notable Books authors with the Night for Notables celebration on April 30. More than 200 book and reading advocates participated in the celebration.



Eric Villegas holds up his book, *Fork in the Road with Eric Villegas*, during his visit to the Crawford County Library in Grayling. Photo: courtesy of Jane Gyulveszi

Chef Eric Villegas served as the keynote speaker, and State Librarian Nancy Robertson recognized each author for his or her contributions to the state's literary heritage. "We are thrilled to host this event recognizing the 2008 Michigan Notable Book authors and to offer tour stops in 57 locations statewide, so the people of Michigan have an opportunity to hear and appreciate these remarkable authors' captivating stories of life in Michigan," Robertson said. The Michigan Notable Books list includes something for everyone, with topics ranging from the Civil War to President Gerald R. Ford to the Mackinac Bridge to baking pies to the Heidelberg Project in Detroit.

"The unique thing about the Michigan Notable Book program is the fact that we help

bring authors to communities across the state," said Randy Riley, Michigan Notable Books co-chair. "Several other states recognize authors from their state, but I don't know of any that coordinate a tour like the Michigan Notable authors tour."

The tour included stops in Alden, Alpena, Ann Arbor, Auburn Hills, Bad Axe, Bay City, Cadillac, Cass City, Charlevoix, Clare, Davisburg, Detroit (four visits), East Lansing, Empire, Engadine, Escanaba, Gaylord, Grand Rapids (two visits), Grayling, Hartland, Hastings, Houghton Lake, Iron Mountain, Jackson, Kalkaska, Lake Odessa, Lansing (three visits), Lapeer, Livonia, Manistee, Marquette, Marshall, Mattawan, Menominee, Midland, Morenci, Mount Pleasant, Northville, Owosso, Remus, Royal Oak, Saginaw, Sand Lake, Sault Ste. Marie, Southfield, Spring Lake, St. Ignace, Temperance, Three Rivers, Traverse City and Waterford.

The Michigan Notable Books list is the Library of Michigan's annual selection of books that reflect the state's rich cultural heritage by



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Authors Tyree Guyton (center) and Mike Fornes (right) talk with guests at A Night for Notables, an evening celebrating the 2008 Michigan Notable Books, 20 selections reflective of Michigan's diverse ethnic, historical, literary and cultural experience. Guyton is the author of *Connecting the Dots: Tyree Guyton's Heidelberg Project*, and Fornes wrote *Mackinac Bridge: A 50-Year Chronicle, 1957-2007*.

highlighting Michigan people, places and events. Each year's list features 20 books published the previous calendar year that are about or set in Michigan or the Great Lakes region or are written by a native or resident of Michigan. Selections include nonfiction and fiction and typically have a wide appeal to the audience, covering a range of topics and issues close to the hearts of Michigan residents. For more information about the Michigan Notable Books, visit

<http://www.michigan.gov/notablebooks>.

The programming and author tour centered around the 2008 Michigan Notable Books list are sponsored by the Library of Michigan, the Library of Michigan Foundation, the Michigan Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, Cooley Law School, ProQuest, Meijer, Borders, Auto Owners Insurance, LaSalle Bank/Bank of America, Michigan Center for the Book, Schuler Books & Music, Daniel and Victoria Arbour, and Paul and Marge Byington. Media partners for this project are WKAR, Queue Advertising, Gennara Photography and the Lansing State Journal.



Guest at A Night for Notables at the Library of Michigan sampled dishes prepared using several of the recipes in *Fork in the Road with Eric Villegas*, which highlights Michigan foods. Copyright 2008 Thomas Gennara.

Valerie Hemingway Draws Large Crowd to Library of Michigan

Valerie Hemingway—who worked as Ernest Hemingway's secretary and later married his youngest son, Gregory—visited the Library of Michigan in April to share memories of her time with Hemingway and his family. About 200 people attended the event, which also featured a Q&A session and a book signing for Ms. Hemingway's memoir, *Running with the Bulls: My Years with the Hemingways*.

Ms. Hemingway spoke at five other Michigan libraries as part of The Great Michigan Read, sponsored by the Michigan Humanities Council. Ernest Hemingway's *The Nick Adams Stories*, which chronicles a young man's coming of age in a series of short stories, is the featured book of The Great Michigan Read, a program of the Michigan Humanities Council. For more information, please go to <http://www.greatmichiganread.org>.



Valerie Hemingway signed copies of her book, *Running with the Bulls: My Years with the Hemingways*, at the Library of Michigan in April.

Left to right, State Librarian Nancy Robertson, Valerie Hemingway and Michigan Humanities Council Director Jan Fedewa, in front of the Hemingway display at the Library of Michigan.



New at the Library of Michigan: *Civil War Gravesites: A Compilation of Genesee, Lapeer & Shiawassee Counties*

By Kris Rzepczynski, Michigan/genealogy coordinator

To see what's new at the Library of Michigan, go to ANSWER, the Library's online catalog, at <http://www.answercat.org> and click the button "Check for New Books."

One notable item that has arrived recently is *Civil War Gravesites: A Compilation of Genesee, Lapeer & Shiawassee Counties* by Len and Sharon Walworth Thomas (Michigan F 572 .G3 T5 2006). This three-volume set from the Flint Genealogical Society (<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mifgs>) is an excellent resource for researchers with Civil War ancestors. Volume 1 covers Genesee County, Volume 2 details Lapeer County and Volume 3 includes Shiawassee County burials.

Civil War Gravesites makes identifying a soldier's specific unit and cemetery location easy for those ancestors buried in Genesee, Lapeer or Shiawassee counties. Each volume is divided into two parts. The first is a straight alphabetical listing by soldier's name, and also lists the dates of birth and death, hometown (if known), rank, unit and cemetery. The second part is divided by cemetery in the respective county, followed by an alphabetical listing by soldier's name.

As families are often buried together, cemetery records can serve as a goldmine for family information, and perhaps even reveal new family ties. The Michigan Cemetery Sources database, available at <http://www.michigan.gov/cemeteries>, is an online finding aid for published Michigan cemetery transcriptions available at the Library of Michigan; it also includes links to online transcriptions. Many of the published cemetery transcriptions, including *Civil War Gravesites*, are available both onsite at the Library of Michigan and through the interlibrary loan network.

Custom Enclosures Protect LM Collections

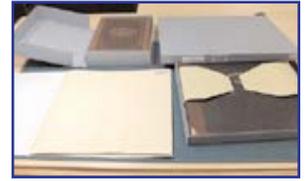
By Kevin Driedger, cataloger and collection conservator

Sometimes a book is beyond repair. Or maybe a map is so fragile that it cannot be handled without causing more damage, or an item is so thin and flimsy that it would get lost or damaged on the shelf.

The Library of Michigan deals with many items that fit these descriptions. Most of these are fragile, there are no replacements available and discarding them is not an option.



To ensure that these items are available for future users, often the best solution is to put them into a protective enclosure. An enclosure is anything that surrounds the item and provides support and protection, including such things as envelopes, pamphlet binders, polyester envelopes and a variety of boxes. The Library of Michigan makes abundant use of pre-made enclosures, but for certain items a custom enclosure is the best option. Custom enclosures are reserved for items with unusual requirements, and many items in the Library's Rare Book Collection need more protection and support.



Three of the custom enclosures used by the Library of Michigan are four-flap enclosures, clamshell boxes and two-tray boxes.

Custom four-flap enclosures

Thin volumes, such as a magazine issue, which need to stand vertically, are susceptible to damage and loss on the shelf. Often a custom four-flap enclosure is best for these kinds of items. This is made from sheets of folder stock, which wraps around the item both horizontally and vertically. If more strength or protection is needed, the enclosure is double-sided-taped into a custom-made folder constructed of thin boards joined with a Tyvek tape spine.

Clamshell boxes

Some items that are too thick or heavy for a four-flap enclosure are ideal candidates for a clamshell box. These boxes, like the two-tray boxes below, can be made out of archival corrugated board. The three dimensions of the book are measured, taking care to note any irregularities in the book's shape. LM staff members developed an Excel spreadsheet into which the dimensions are entered, and the spreadsheet calculates the dimensions of the board and the various folds and cuts. The box is cut out of a single sheet of board. The locations of the folds are scored with a bone folder, and the joining parts are held together with PVA.

Two-tray boxes

Large, thin volumes—particularly atlases—are better suited for a two-tray box. Its construction also begins with taking measurements and entering them into a pre-designed Excel spreadsheet. Because of the larger size and weight, the bottom tray is made with double-thick walls. This box requires more gluing and assembling than the clamshell box. To compensate for the snug fit of the item in the lower tray, a sling made out of excess folder stock, which wraps around the book, can be used to easily remove and replace the volume.

For more information about constructing custom enclosures, or to get copies of the clamshell or two-tray Excel templates, contact Kevin Driedger at kdriedger@michigan.gov.

Michigan READ Posters

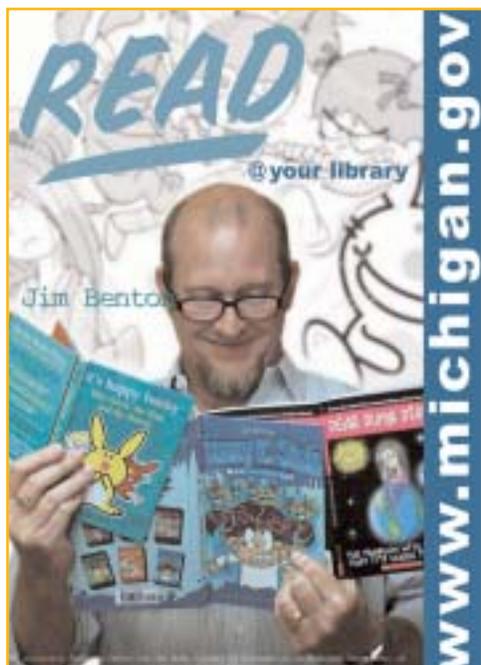
By Karren Reish, Michigan Center for the Book coordinator

The Michigan Center for the Book is excited to announce its READ posters for Michigan are now available! This series of posters featuring Michigan celebrities reading will help accomplish the Center for the Book mission to promote reading and literacy. A set of posters is being sent to every public and school library statewide.

Our hope is that the posters will draw attention to Michigan literature and libraries, and influence children and young adults not to drop out of reading. Children who feel reading is an acceptable, “cool” activity are able to improve their literacy skills and educational experience. The poster models, who share our goal of encouraging reading graciously volunteered their time and images. The models for the posters are:

- Nate Robertson of the Detroit Tigers
- Sparty, the Michigan State University mascot
- Johnathan Rand, Michigan young adult author
- Jim Benton, Michigan young adult author
- Gisjbert van Frankenhuyzen and Robbyn Smith van Frankenhuyzen, Michigan children’s illustrator and author
- Kathy-jo Wargin, Michigan children’s author

A limited number of additional copies are available by request. The Library of Michigan and the affiliate libraries of the Michigan Center for the Book are proud to offer these posters. For more information on the Center for the Book and its activities, please go to <http://www.michigan.gov/mcfb>.



Three Michigan Students Win Letters about Literature Contest

By Karren Reish, Michigan Center for the Book coordinator

The Michigan Center for the Book recently announced the winners of the Letters about Literature contest! While we received many heartfelt letters from students around the state, the winning letters stood out. Congratulations to:

- Phoebe Brown of Birmingham for her letter to Sarah Miller about *Miss Spitfire*—Level I (Grades 4-6)
- Gabrielle Montesanti of Howell for her letter to Jesse Stuart about *Come to My Tomorrowland*—Level II (Grades 7-8)
- Katelynn Wright of Battle Creek for her letter to Gerda Weissman Klein about *All But My Life*—Level III (Grades 9-12)

The letters can be read on the Youth Services section of <http://www.michigan.gov/ldds>.

Semi-finalists receive a letter of congratulations from the state librarian. State winners receive a letter of congratulations from the state librarian, a \$50 Target gift certificate and a \$300 donation to their school or public library for the children’s or young adult collections.

Letters about Literature is a national reading-writing contest based on the idea of, “Read, Be Inspired, Write Back.” The Michigan Center for the Book and the Library of Michigan participate in the annual program with the Library of Congress, in partnership with Target stores. Readers in grades four through 12 are invited to write letters to authors of books that have changed their lives. For more information, go to <http://www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook/letters.html>.

WSU Honors LM's Web Site Administrator



Sonya Schryer Norris, the Library of Michigan and Michigan eLibrary (MeL) Web site administrator, in May received the Professional Service Award from Wayne State University's Library and Information Science Program.

The Professional Service Award honors WSU alumni and other individuals who have made significant and sustained contributions to the Michigan library community over long-standing careers, with consideration given to active members in Michigan state and regional professional associations and those who have held leadership roles in activities related to their jobs.

Sonya has worked at the Library of Michigan for nine years. For the past year and a half, she has served as the Web site administrator. Prior to that, she worked in the Library's Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

In addition to her work at the Library of Michigan, Sonya is a member-at-large of the Michigan Library Association's Library Technology Division Board, and she serves on MLA's Transitional Leadership Forum. Sonya has presented on usability and accessibility, social networking software, technology planning and MeL, including site design and authority for MeL Best of the Web. Her article, "Real Simple? Exploring Online User Satisfaction in Michigan," a usability study of MeL, appeared in the November 2006 issue of *Library Journal*.

A 2006 graduate of Wayne State University's Library and Information Science Program, Sonya's first Web site was an Intranet for 10 libraries for the blind in Michigan, which she worked on during her time in the Library of Michigan's SBPH. For this project, she learned HTML, did a usability study and focused on making the Intranet accessible from the start.

As the Library of Michigan's Web site administrator, Sonya combines her knowledge of Web usability, accessibility and design with her background in libraries. "I really love my job," she said. "This is what I went to library school for."

MeL – The Library Made with Me in Mind

Michigan Educators' Resources to Debut on MeL

By Deb Biggs Thomas, MeL coordinator



MeL, the Michigan eLibrary, will debut Michigan Educators' Resources this spring. Evolving from the Michigan Teachers' Network, in partnership with the Library of Michigan, the Michigan Department of Education and Wayne State University, MER will include links to curriculum content, lesson plans, assessment materials and many other resources.

This content all will be aligned to the new state of Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCEs) and the High School Content Expectations. Educators will be able to search MER by subject and GLCEs, making MER a one-stop portal for teachers!

An additional 40,000 resources from Thinkfinity.org – a comprehensive digital learning platform containing K-12 lesson plans, student materials, interactive tools, connections to educational Web sites, research-based models, and courses and metrics for literacy instruction – will be added to MER this year. All Thinkfinity resources will be aligned to and searchable by Michigan's GLCEs. We will continue to add other resources to MER that teachers may rate and review in terms of use and relevance. MER also will link to job postings for Michigan educators.

We are very excited about this excellent addition to MeL's resources and its potential for streamlining teachers' curriculum needs.



MeL Best of the Web Adds 3,000th Entry

By Sonya Schryer Norris, Web site administrator

We would like to recognize Elizabeth Schneider of the Ann Arbor District Library for making the 3,000th entry to MeL Best of the Web. Best of the Web is a collection of Michigan-focused, librarian-selected Internet sites available at MeL.org, and Best of the Web pathfinders include Web sites, recommended databases and sample MeLCat searches. The 3000th entry was CIA for Kids, <http://www.cia.gov/kids-page/index.html>, where children can learn about the Central Intelligence Agency and play games to sharpen their “spy techniques.”



*Elizabeth Schneider
of Ann Arbor
District Library*

Elizabeth has been a MeL Kids selector since September. A youth services librarian for the Ann Arbor District Library, she is dedicated to developing tween programming and services at the library. She is actively involved in the Michigan Library Association, serving on the Spring Institute committee, and is a member of Washtenaw Success by Six. In her spare time, you can find her in a movie theater or reading a book. Elizabeth has a bachelor of science in chemistry from Washington State University (2003) and a master's in information from the University of Michigan (2006). Visit MeL Kids, <http://mel.org/SPT—BrowseResources.php?ParentId=679>, to check out her work. MeL Kids is actively being developed as a go-to place for Michigan children through age 12.

MeL Database Spotlight: CAMIO® - Catalog of Art Museum Images Online

By Sonya Schryer Norris, Web site administrator

Looking for high-quality art images that have been rights-cleared for educational and research use*? MeL has them in CAMIO®, the Catalog of Art Museum Images Online from OCLC. You may search a wide range of fine and decorative art by keyword, or browse by museum or type of art, including architecture, photographs, drawings, sculpture and textiles. Find photographs by Ansel Adams, Indonesian sculptures, pre-Columbian amulets, 18th-century Japanese paintings and much, much more. All items include a description and at least one high-resolution image. CAMIO also allows you to save favorite images for easy retrieval later. Check out CAMIO at <http://mel.org> or go to <http://0-camio.oclc.org.elibrary.mel.org>.

* Works must be properly credited.

Best of the Web: Genealogy

By Gloriane Peck, special collections librarian

MeL's Best of the Web: Genealogy brings together links to Michigan-related family history resources, helping genealogists of all skill levels conduct online research. Links to vital records and indexes, passenger and immigration lists and records, military rosters and records, census information, biographies, newspapers and more introduce family historians to the growing number of Web sites created by government agencies, libraries and genealogy societies. With links to vital records and obituary indexes from communities all over Michigan, MeL Best of the Web: Genealogy provides a one-stop shop for the building blocks of online genealogy research. One of the most visited areas of MeL's Best of the Web, the Genealogy section also includes links to Michigan libraries with genealogical or historical collections, as well as to genealogy societies and associations. To get to this section, go to the left column of <http://mel.org> and click on Genealogy.

The MeL selectors for Genealogy are Gloriane Peck, Library of Michigan special collections librarian, and Kris Rzepczynski, the Library of Michigan's Michigan/genealogy coordinator.

MeL Best of the Web is a browseable, searchable collection of online resources from around Michigan and across the Internet. It strives to provide high-quality resources particularly important to people seeking information related to Michigan within subjects such as the automotive industry, history and genealogy. Best of the Web includes the highest-quality Internet resources on each topic, selected by librarians for both patrons and librarians. You may browse Best of the Web by selecting a subject on the left side of the MeL home page.

MeL by the Numbers

As of June 11, 2008:

- Total libraries are participating in MeLCat: 235
- Academic: 42
- Public: 183
- K-12: 24
- Special and tribal: 4
- Items available in MeLCat: 30.2 million (7.92 million bibliographic records)
- Average weekly MeLCat requests: 12,751
- So far in 2008, MeLCat has had 267,769 requests, with a fulfillment rate of 89.5 percent

Library of Michigan Foundation

Gifts of Stock, Bonds or Mutual Funds

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



Why do people give to charitable organizations like the Library of Michigan Foundation? For various reasons. They do it to give something back, because they are committed to a particular cause or for the enjoyment of helping others. Besides their personal motive, it is also natural that donors will consider the tax benefits of their gift.

If you are considering a gift to the Library of Michigan Foundation, it may be to your advantage to give stocks, bonds or mutual funds instead of cash.

Any securities that you have owned for 12 months or more and that have increased in value since you bought them are subject to the capital gains tax if you sell them. However, if you make a gift of these securities to the Library of Michigan Foundation, you get a charitable deduction for the full fair market value as of the day of transfer and avoid the tax on the capital gain.

This allows you to make a gift using an asset that might have been considered frozen because of the capital gain that would be experienced if you sold it. Because you get a charitable deduction for the market value and avoid the capital gains tax, you are making a gift that saves taxes twice!

Example: Mary S. owns \$5,000 worth of WXY Corporation stock, which she purchased for \$2,000 three years ago. By donating this stock to the Library of Michigan Foundation, she receives a charitable deduction of \$5,000 and avoids tax on the \$3,000 of capital gain.

Each spring the Library of Michigan Foundation asks donors and library patrons to make a gift to its annual campaign. If you value what the Library of Michigan offers you and the people of Michigan, become a first-time donor or renew your gift today. Your gift (cash or stock) is vital, and represents an investment in quality library services, lifelong learning, and important literary and cultural programs. Please contact Judith Moore at (517) 373-4470, if you have questions. Thank you for your support!

The Library of Michigan Foundation

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 Yes! I/We want to make a gift to the Library of Michigan Foundation's annual fund in support of the continuing development of the Library of Michigan's programs and collections. \$_____ gift enclosed.

Please print name

Address

City/State/ZIP

Phone

E-mail address

The foundation is an autonomous, Non-Profit 501 (c)(3) public charity governed by an independent board of directors. Gifts to the Library of Michigan Foundation are 100% tax deductible. We sincerely appreciate your support!

Get Smart

Mahoney Children's Workshops Set for August

The Mahoney Children's Workshops provide an overview of Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library, an early literacy initiative from the Public Library Association and the American Library Association. Participants will be trained to present workshops designed for caregivers, and to incorporate practical ways of developing a strong role for their libraries in early childhood communities. Participants will learn techniques for enhancing story times by incorporating information for parents/caregivers. Saroj Ghoting, a literacy consultant to PLA and ALA (www.earlylit.net), will present these day-long workshops.

The Mahoney Children's Workshops are made possible through the support of the Alice C. Mahoney Fund administered by the Library of Michigan Foundation. These workshops are intended to provide convenient, low-cost professional development experiences for youth librarians in regions of Michigan where these opportunities are not as readily available.

How to Go

- Continuing Education Credits: .5 CEUs for public librarians; .5 SB-CEUs for school librarians are pending.
- Registration deadline: Aug. 11
- Registration fee: \$20 (cost of meals only)
- Dates and Locations
 - Aug. 25: Bullard Sanford Public Library in Vassar
 - Aug. 26: Otsego Club in Gaylord
 - Aug. 28: Munising School Public Library in Munising
- For more information, go to http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-1751_18668_41245-142229--,00.html.

QSAC: Quality Counts

New QSAC Libraries and Workshops

By Karren Reish, LSTA coordinator

Congratulations to the following libraries, which recently achieved certification:

New Essential Level Libraries

- Ogemaw District Library – March 2008

New Enhanced Level Library

- Charlevoix Public Library – February 2008

In other QSAC news, the Library of Michigan will host a panel discussion at the Michigan Library Association annual conference, Oct. 22-24 in Kalamazoo. The session topic is, "Advocate for Your Library! How to Use Evaluation and Quality Standards to Manage Your Programs and Influence Your Funders."

We hope to see you there!

Current QSAC Certification Statistics

	Libraries	Cooperatives
Essential:	139	6
Enhanced:	24	4
Excellent:	3	2

Upcoming QSAC Workshops - Free, .3 CEUs

- July 15 at Plymouth District Library
- July 25 at Flint Public Library

Register at <http://www.michigan.gov/ldds>.

Legal-Ease

Giving Public Funds

By Lance M. Werner, library law specialist

On occasion I receive questions pertaining to a library "giving" money to another entity or individual as a type of prize or gift, or in support of some non-library program that may be peripherally related to the library. Most of these questions share some common traits—that the money in question is public money and that the questioner wants to discern the legality of giving money without a contract. In all instances, the motives for these questions have been noble and well intentioned.



When contemplating questions of this nature, it is important to recall one fundamental legal premise controlling how governmental entities conduct themselves. Library boards have no inherent powers. They possess only those limited powers given them by the state constitution, or by state statute, or by local ordinance or charter, or power that is necessarily implied from there. *Hanselman v Kileen*, 419 Mich.168, 351 NW2d 544 (1984). Further, it should be noted that government actions are not based on the same premise as private actions. Citizens of the United States can do anything that is not prohibited by statute,

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whereas governments and governmental entities cannot engage in any activity unless it has been authorized by law.

All of Michigan's legally established public libraries are a type of governmental entity, either subdivisions of local governments or regional governmental entities, and are considered municipal corporations.

As such, they are subject to the mandates provided in *Hanselman*. Library boards must not act in a manner not legally authorized. Finding authority to act must be considered before a library board actually acts. Two examples of authority to act can be found in state law. One is §12 of the District Library Establishment Act, 1989 PA 24, MCL 397.182 and another is §5 of the City, Village and Township Libraries Establishment Act, 1877 PA 164, MCL 397.205. These sections provide the authority for library board actions. They are similar in that they expressly state that library boards have the exclusive legal authority to spend money out of the library fund and to do any other thing necessary for conducting library service. There can be no doubt that these sections authorize library boards to enter into contracts and related agreements for the provision of library service. However, a gift is not akin to entering into a contract.

I am unaware of any legal authority authorizing a library board to "give" public funds in the absence of a contract or other legal obligation. It may be possible to provide employees a bonus, so long as the bonus is treated like compensation. It may be possible to have some type of "prize" if there is a supporting contract and some type of service is being given to the library in exchange for consideration.

The Michigan attorney general has had an opportunity to discuss a similar matter. Attorney General Jennifer Granholm discussed the permissibility of a township's donation of funds in Opinion No. 7111 (June 17, 2002). She stated:

A township is not authorized to donate township funds to a combined school district/public library, but may enter into a contract to provide township funds to the library in return for library services to township residents.

Applying this premise to the questions that I receive on this topic, it is clear that a library board does not have the authority to "give" public money, no matter how noble the cause. If instead the library board was entering into some type of contract for the provision of library service, the answer would be different. The other issue with entering into contracts is that it is absolutely necessary that the funds be used appropriately. For instance, millage funds can only be used for the purposes stated in the ballot language. Funds can only be used consistent with the terms of the grant under which they were given.

A related question concerns gifts given by friends groups to people or entities other than the library. This endeavor raises some issues that must be addressed. The first issue is that the friends of the library are required to act in accordance with their articles of incorporation (assuming that they are incorporated under the Michigan Nonprofit Corporations Act, 1982 PA 162, MCL 450.2101 *et seq.*, and possess 501(c)(3) status under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986). If the

articles of incorporation are specific to supporting the library, they are limited to that action. The other issue is that it is not uncommon for friends groups to obtain charitable donations given for a specific purpose. If the friends use these encumbered funds in a manner that is contradictory to the reason that they were given, they could possibly face suit and/or lose the funds altogether.

In summary, the outcome of this issue is dependent on the nature of the proposed transaction. If the transaction is some type of gift, it is doubtful that the library board would have the legal authority to comply. If the transaction is a contract for the provision or receipt of some type of library service, it is possible that it would be legally feasible. It will be necessary for a library board to make this determination. In addition, this determination and the following action should be discussed with the library's own legal counsel.

Finally, the Library of Michigan, Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries, lacks authority to give legal advice to any person or agency. The Library of Michigan simply furnishes informational and comment services. The discussion above is intended as an informational service only. Please contact Library Law Specialist Lance M. Werner at (517) 373-1299 if you have any questions.

Your Good Ideas

WCC-WTMC Collaboration on Information Literacy Education

By Victor Liu, dean, Learning Resources, Washtenaw Community College

Beginning from the 2008-09 academic year, the collaboration between Washtenaw Community College Richard W. Bailey Library and Washtenaw Technical Middle College will bear fruit in a credit course on information literacy. By passing this required course, all first-year WTMC students will acquire essential information literacy skills and knowledge to succeed in their college and lifelong education.

Located on the WCC campus in Ann Arbor, WTMC is a public school academy of about 300 10th-, 11th- and 12th-graders representing more than 30 school districts from different counties. By enrolling in WCC college courses over a three-year period, these students will matriculate from high school and, at the same time, graduate with either a certificate or an associate's degree in a WCC technical program.

As all high schools statewide develop their curricula to comply with the new Michigan Merit Curriculum High School Graduation Requirements, WCC Bailey Library is in a perfect position to help

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WTMC meet some of the requirements—in particular, English language arts content standard 1.4 on inquiry and research. Not only is this collaboration aligned with an integral part of the library’s mission—information literacy education—the library staff also strongly believes that teaching such knowledge and skills to students at a young age helps build a solid foundation for their academic and professional future.

In the 2007-08 academic year, the library staff, in consultation with WTMC, developed a credit course proposal that can meet the WCC curriculum committee’s course and assessment standards, as well as fulfill the Michigan high school English language arts standard 1.4. The library staff then will proceed to standardize the course’s instructional content, format and syllabus. The course will cover not only print and electronic information research, but also citation documentation, plagiarism and copyright issues. With the Bailey librarians serving as instructors, the course, ACS 123, will be offered under the auspices of the Academic Skills Department on campus.

Beginning in 2008-09, an annual cohort of about 100 first-year WTMC students will be required to take and pass the course before they can transition to regular WCC courses. Both the Bailey Library and WTMC staffs are hopeful that such a foundational course will instill information literacy that can serve the students in the years to come.

HAL Highlights

Wanted: Stories, Photos and Mementoes of Michigan’s Roadside Tourist Attractions

If you’ve ever stopped to see Big John, the World’s Largest Miner, near Iron Mountain or the Twin Towers in the Irish Hills—or one of the many other fun and interesting places to stop and rest along Michigan’s highways—the Michigan Historical Museum needs your help!

The museum is planning an exhibit called *Michigan’s Roadside Attractions*, set to run from January to June 2009, and is looking for stories, pictures and artifacts of the unique places—some of which no longer exist—that travelers have visited on their way to other destinations. You might have just the right photo, memento or recollection that makes the exhibit complete. Business owners who



have operated roadside attractions and tourism promotional organizations also are encouraged to share items that will support the business and marketing aspects of this “Pure Michigan” story.

If you can help, please contact Eve Weipert, curator of collections, at (517) 373-1509 or weiperte@michigan.gov. Most artifacts used in the exhibit will be considered on loan and will be returned after the exhibit ends. The museum has an established review process that is utilized prior to acceptance of loans or permanent donations. The deadline for submitting photos, artifacts or stories is Oct. 1



‘Pure Michigan’ Summer Fun at HAL Destinations

Wherever your summer travel in Michigan takes you, there’s likely a Department of History, Arts and Libraries site nearby offering a fun, educational experience for all ages. Families can take a fascinating voyage through Michigan’s past by visiting the sites of the Michigan Historical Museum System, Mackinac State Historic Parks or Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve.



The Eagle’s Flight Zip Line is one of the exciting new nature adventures you can enjoy at Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park Mackinaw City.

Step back in time at Civil War encampments or celebrate of 19th century life, watch vintage baseball games, see 19th century woodcarvers and blacksmiths at work, check out the new *Exploring the Shipwreck Century* interactive exhibits at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, or enjoy the exciting new nature adventures at Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park—climb the Nature Trail Climbing Wall, soar like an eagle down the Eagle’s Flight Zip Line, walk through the treetops on the Forest Canopy Bridge, journey to the top of the five-story Treetop Discovery Tower, and explore the Water Power Station and Forest Friends Children’s Play Area.

To learn more about these and more fun summer experiences at sites throughout Michigan, click on the “Experience Pure Michigan” button on the HAL home page at <http://www.michigan.gov/hal> or visit the following Web pages:

- Mackinac State Historic Parks: <http://www.mackinacparks.com>
- Michigan Historical Museum System: <http://www.michigan.gov/michiganhistory>
- Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve/Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center: <http://www.michigan.gov/thunderbay>