

Why We Are Here
September 24,2007
Library of Michigan
State Librarian's Advisory Committee
On Cooperatives and State Aid Funding

How the conversation was started – Summer 2006 to Present; sharing of ideas; no plan actually put forward to date

How the group was selected – Library size; geographic location and situation; cooperative representation; Library of Michigan and HAL players; Michigan Library Association involvement

Expectations for the meeting(s)

Use the time for development of something concrete to work with beyond continued unstructured sharing of ideas and concerns – to share with the library community at large for comment and input and to build on for eventual actual development of revised or new legislation

Engage in compromise, prioritization, establishment of realistic expectations, with an end goal of having a defined structure for regionally distributed state funded services to libraries that we can argue successfully for sustained and even increased state funding now and in the future

Not part of the purpose

Not about defining what non-state-funded activities can or cannot or should or should not be undertaken by regional collaboration. Focus is on state funding and how it needs to be definable and justifiable in order to receive appropriated funding.

Outcome hoped for

Nancy hopes we all can come away with a good understanding of how this representative group envisions a model of equity and accountability for delivery of services to all of the state's residents with a good opportunity for flexibility, meeting local and regional needs.

Initially envisioned a one-day experience, but we'll see if it may need follow up gathering(s) – outcomes are needed soon, but we need to complete the process, too.

Questions or comments from the group?