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PLFIG Update: December 2001

By Eileen Palmer

In October the Library of Michigan contracted with The Library Network in order to support the Public Library Funding Initiative (PLFIG). I am pleased to begin my work as the Coordinator. Working with the PLFIG Steering Committee over the next few months, several working committees will be created. These committees will develop the strategies we need, identify the statistics we need to support our case, and work with other statewide groups (like ATLAS and PRISM) to make sure our activities are well-coordinated and reach all Michigan libraries. We will also be updating the PLFIG web site, setting up our speakers bureau and reaching out to the Friends of Michigan Libraries to share our hopes and plans for the future.

The Public Library Funding Initiative began in the Fall of 1999 as a grassroots effort to identify the growing concerns over public library funding and develop a plan to address them. Shortly after coming together, and forming a steering committee, this project began as all good library projects do— with an acronym! PLFIG draws its membership from public libraries of all sizes from all over the state. In an unprecedented illustration of just how strongly the public library community supports this project, over \$120,000 was raised to fund a study by the renowned Charles McClure. Many Michigan libraries, Friends groups, and librarians from all types of libraries continue to contribute to this effort with total funds raised thus far exceeding \$150,000.

Dr. McClure reviewed his preliminary findings at the 2000 MLA conference and the final report was presented in early spring 2001. Most librarians, trustees and friends were not surprised by the findings in *Creating stability and equity in Michigan public libraries, ending the crisis: final report to the Michigan Public Library Funding Initiative Group (PLFIG), 2001*. But many did gain

a better understanding of how the myriad of library establishment and funding options have created vast inequities in how libraries are funded in Michigan. McClure was blunt, in both his report and his presentation at MLA, saying that we must all understand that our issues and problems are the same and can only be solved by working together to build a stable new environment in which all libraries can flourish.

The PLFIG report calls for a two-pronged approach—pursue short term technology-related improvements to ease the existing crisis and work towards a long term solution that will address the systemic problems of antiquated establishment laws, millage caps, tax-base erosion insufficient state aid.

The Library of Michigan supports the efforts of PLFIG as it develops plans to implement McClure's findings. State Librarian Christie Brandau and other Library of Michigan staff have been invaluable to the process thus far. In order to further assist with the PLFIG effort, Christie proposed to the PLFIG Steering Committee that the Library of Michigan would contribute, via contract, the services of a PLFIG Coordinator.

The landscape has changed dramatically in just a few short months. Budget surpluses are now budget short falls and national priorities are very much on all of our minds these days. While it may not be easy to obtain the funds we need to improve library service today, we can and should be planning for tomorrow. Forecasters suggest an economic downturn of short duration. We will be using this time to fully develop our proposals, seek consensus within our community and begin to communicate a view of library service based on the ideal, not, as McClure points out, on the motto of 'good enough.' Please feel free to contact me whenever you'd like (734-281-3830, ext. 107 or empalmer@tln.lib.mi.us).

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Budget News Impacts Michigan's Libraries

The impact of September 11 and a deepening recession are now being felt in Michigan and in our libraries. Faced with a massive shortfall in revenues for the current year's state budget, and a constitutional obligation to balance the budget, an executive order was issued on November 6 and passed by the joint appropriations committee. The budget reduction plan, put together by the executive branch in concert with the legislature, is much more than just belt-tightening. Every state agency, as well as the judicial and legislative branch, had their budgets cut.

The Department of History Arts and Libraries received a 9.2 percent reduction in current year funding. Library of Michigan operations received a 5.2 percent reduction in current year funding.

This reduction will impact the following areas:

1. The most significant cut was the state grants to the Detroit Public Library and the Grand Rapids Public Library, which were reduced by 50 percent.
2. The amount of state aid to libraries was reduced by 5.2 percent, from \$14,063,700 to \$13,300,000. This will result in a per capita payment to libraries of \$0.436 for the current appropriation year.
3. Statewide databases: the line item that provides state funding for AccessMichigan, was reduced by 5.2 percent. As a result, the Library of Michigan's subscription to Gale's InfoTrac Kid's Edition will be discontinued as of January 1, 2002.
4. The Library of Michigan's operating budget was reduced by 5.2 percent or \$378,200. As a result, four open positions will go unfilled, funding for materials will be reduced and some library services will be limited or eliminated.
5. Sub-regional state aid and the Wayne County Handicapped Library grant, both of which fund services to the blind and physically handicapped, were reduced by 5.2 percent. For Subregional state aid it was a reduction of \$31,000 and for Wayne County a reduction of \$2,600.
6. The budget for the Book Distribution Centers was reduced by \$17,000 (5.2 percent).

Realistically, according to our state's economic experts, we can expect to face similarly constrained revenues for the near future, affecting our department and Michigan's libraries. Decisions as to how we deal with reduced revenues will, obviously, lie within each of our organizational structures. I think we are all busy thinking about how we are going to deal with and, hopefully, temper the affects of some of these cuts.

This creates terrific challenges, especially at the local level. Everyone should be encouraged to partake in an open dialogue; let's share best practices and not hesitate to offer creative ideas on keeping customer service levels high. Michigan's libraries continue to be key to Michigan's future.

Dear Friends,

Happy holidays! This is a season of gratitude and there is a lot for which to be thankful. For one thing, despite the events of September 11, library doors remain open, programs continue and books are checked out. Our personal freedoms, including freedom of speech, remain intact. And we are more aware than ever of the importance of libraries as information resources for our community and our state.

Although we are each facing some belt-tightening right now, the mission of libraries to serve remains unchanged. We will continue to look towards a bright future and press forward with the important statewide projects and ideas that we have worked on together. We won't abandon the progress we've made in cooperation and providing even better library service in Michigan.

Best wishes of peace to you and yours,

Kristie



Plan On It!

2001: LSTA State Programs Conference

The LSTA State Programs Conference, 2001, was held in Washington, D.C. on November 15-16. This conference was attended by Sheryl Mase, Library Development Division Director and Jo Budler, Deputy State Librarian. On November 15 Dr. Robert S. Martin, Director of the Institute of Museums and Library Services was introduced to those in attendance. In his welcome, Dr. Martin pointed out that as librarians we need to be able to articulate to our federal legislators what impact LSTA has had on their constituents. In one sentence, without any library jargon, we need to tell what difference LSTA grants have made. In short, we must make known to those in Congress what effect LSTA grants have had on library users in the past and what effect we hope these grants will have on their future.

Dr. Martin pointed out that LSTA has “institutional diversity,” i.e. during the last five years, all types of libraries have benefited from the LSTA program and should continue to do so through the next 5 year cycle. He emphasized that we need to publicize all programs and projects which have been made possible by LSTA funding. This needs to be published on brochures, in newsletters, in press releases. If we do not tell the stories of how we used this money well, we may very well lose this funding.

We need to remind people that our focus is on education. We need to highlight ways museums and libraries provide the “infrastructure for informal education.” Education has always been an important part of the business of libraries. Everyone who works in a library knows that libraries are where folks come to continue their education when their formal education is over. We must remind those who would fund us that this is so.

As early as 1840, the Boston Public Library was called the capstone of the public school system in Boston. Later Carnegie libraries were dubbed the “university of the people.” Even as late as 1955, the library was acknowledged as the place where people went for education after they left school. This role of the public library stopped being publicly emphasized in the 1970’s but libraries never stopped providing this service. It is time for us to remind our library users and the politicians of our country that libraries have a very active role in education of all our residents, regardless of their age or economic status, and need to be funded as educational bodies.

To read more of Dr. Martin’s message, direct your browser to

http://www.imls.gov/about/abt_dirm.htm

Jo Budler

Searching the Michigan Compiled Laws on the Web

By Nancy Whitmer, Law Librarian

In the October issue of *Access*, I wrote about the Michigan Compiled Laws (MCL). They are the Michigan statutes, as amended. This is the body of law enacted by the Michigan Legislature. I pointed out the major features of the two paper editions and the Internet edition. Here I’m going to focus exclusively on the MCL that you’ve been using on the Internet (<http://www.michigan-legislature.org/law>).

If you’ve found this database somewhat intimidating, I hope the following tips will help you with a few very simple searches.

Your first decision is whether to go into the Basic Search or the Advanced Search. Most of the searches you will need to perform will be Basic Searches.

Basic Searching

If you want to browse an entire **chapter** of the MCL, simply type its number into the fourth box down (Chapter No). The chapters are the major divisions of the MCL, and each contains the law on one subject. For example, chapter 257 is motor vehicle law, chapter 324 is environmental law, and chapter 500 is insurance law.

MCL chapters are divided into public acts (discussed below) and further divided into sections. To retrieve a section of law, type its number into the top box (MCL Section No). For a range of numbers, put a hyphen between the first and last numbers. For non-consecutive sections, separate the numbers with commas.

The most difficult statutory search to do successfully is a **key word** search. That’s because most statutory language is not like spoken language, and it’s not even like other written language. Try to think of words likely to be in the section of law you need, and type them into the bottom box (Full Text Search). You can see examples of how to connect your search terms by clicking on the question mark at the end of that line.

Advanced Searching

A search for a public act, as amended, requires you to use the Advanced Search screen. Scroll down to the next to the last box (Public Act Number ___ Of Year ___) and type in the public act number and year. When the next screen appears, click on Act ___ of ___ to display the entire act as amended. Please note that you always need to know the year of enactment, as well as the act number.

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Virtual Reference

By Linda Neely

The Library of Michigan will soon offer virtual reference services using LSSI (Library Systems & Services, Inc.) interactive email software. This program provides live reference in a chat environment where the patron may ask a question requiring a simple quick reference response or he may follow the librarian's search of the Internet or any Internet site. Using LSSI it will be possible to guide the user through searches of our OPAC, MEL, and www.michiganlegislature.org or to conduct an interactive search of an Access Michigan database.

To prepare for LSSI service, Public Services Division librarians attended a daylong training workshop. Several hours of practice are also recommended before going live. Meanwhile our two internal trainers are working to customize the Library of Michigan's LSSI portal. Virtual reference service will be offered for 2 - 4 hours a day at first, to be adjusted based on customer demand.

For a vendor demonstration of LSSI visit <http://www.virtualreference.net/virtual>.

Digitization Survey Online

Have you digitized part of your special collection? Would you like to be part of a statewide digitization project? Do you have expertise you would be willing to share regarding digitization? If you answered yes to any of these questions, it is very important that you fill out the digitization survey produced by the ATLAS Digitization Committee. The results of this survey will provide a basis for a digitization plan for our state.

The purpose of this survey is to discover:

- who in Michigan has already undertaken a digitization project
- what historical and cultural materials have been digitized in Michigan and how
- who in Michigan has expertise in various aspects of digitization
- which holders of historical and cultural materials in Michigan desire to digitize all or part of their collections
- what assistance is needed by Michigan libraries and institutions to achieve their digitization goals.

Please go to <http://www.clarus-info.com/atlas-digisurvey/> and fill out the survey online. If you need to have the survey faxed or mailed to you instead, please contact Ruth Dukelow (1-800-530-9019 x21 or email: dukelow@mlcnet.org).

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Searching the Michigan Compiled
Laws on the Web



Updating Your Search Results

As of this writing, the notice at the top of the screens announces that the database is complete through PA 131 (as of 11/15/01) of 2001. But how complete is that? You need to know that this electronic MCL is updated irregularly. However, Michigan's full-time legislature is at work enacting new public acts continuously (though they do take breaks) throughout the year. Therefore, the section of law you have just retrieved may have been amended since the database was last updated. How can you check on that? Just follow these incredibly easy steps.

Go back to the Michigan Legislature home page (www.michiganlegislature.org).

Click on Michigan Compiled Law Tables.

Select 2001 or the current year.

Notice the coverage information at the top of the table.

Scroll down and look for the section you want to check on.

If it isn't there, it has not been amended during the year.

If it IS there, it HAS been amended (or added, repealed, etc.).

The table tells you which public act has amended it. Note its number.

To find out what the amending act says, follow these additional incredibly easy steps.

Go back to the Michigan Legislature home page.

Click on Public Act Tables.

Select 2001 or the current year.

Find the public act in the table and note its (HB or SB) bill number.

Go back to the Michigan Legislature home page.

Click on Bill by Number.

Select House Bills or Senate Bills. Type the number into the box and search it.

The next screen will allow you to view and print various versions of the bill.

View the Public Act.

If the Public Act is not available yet, view the Enrolled Bill. It's the version of the bill that was presented to and signed by the Governor.

I have just one more thing to point out. You may have noticed that a Public Beta version of the Michigan Legislature website is under development. Although its organization is different, these search tips still apply.

Now wasn't that easy? No, it really is! But feel free to contact the reference librarians at the Library of Michigan Law Library with any questions you have about searching this database. Our number is 517-373-0630, or toll-free 1-877-479-0021.



Finding information in the MEL Health Section:

The most direct method for finding a precise page is to use the MEL Search engine and write your topic in the search box before hitting the “enter” key. If you wish to browse the indexes, you will find most of these resources linked to the Public Health index page. *Burn Injury* and *Stress* pages are linked to the *Safety* Index and the *Mental Health* Index pages. Here is a list of the sites mentioned in this month’s article:

Anthrax

<http://mel.org/health/health-anthrax.html>

Antibiotic Resistance

<http://mel.org/health/health-antibiotic.html>

BioTerrorism

<http://mel.org/health/health-bioterrorism.html>

Blood Transfusion and Blood Donation

<http://mel.org/health/health-blood.html>

Burn Injury

<http://mel.org/health/health-burn.html>

Handwashing

<http://mel.org/health/health-handwashing.html>

Immunization

<http://mel.org/health/health-immunize.html>

Traumatic and Post-Traumatic Stress

<http://mel.org/health/health-posttraumatic.html>

And:

Meningitis

<http://mel.org/health/health-meningitis.html>

West Nile Virus

<http://mel.org/health/health-westnile.html>

Stem Cell Research

<http://mel.org/health/health-stemcell.html>

MEL Health provides up-to-date information on current health issues

What a difference a day makes:

In August, I created a page on the *West Nile Virus* because of all the excitement over this presumed threat in New York and Michigan. I had also put together pages on Meningitis for families with children going to college campuses and on *Stem Cell Research* – the country’s big bio-ethics challenge.

All of that seems insignificant in the wake of four hijackings, the attacks on New York and Washington on September 11, 2001, and now the bio-terrorism threat. Of course we worry about our own personal health and the health of our families, but we now understand how our need for protecting and maintaining our personal health blends into our understanding of public health. Solid information is critical to maintenance of the public health.

“What can we do?” – MEL Health Responds

Blood donation, an almost overwhelming response by the American public, brought concerns about over-supply and the need for people to increase donations year-long. MEL Health immediately notified users about resources on autologous, frozen and traditional blood donation issues in its *Blood Donation* pages and added a page that points to local blood donation centers around the state.

When fears of bio-terrorism by anthrax and other agents developed, MEL Health responded by alerting users to its page on *BioTerrorism* and expanded that to include a new page on *Anthrax*. These pages point to resources on personal safety and the public health issues of vaccination, hand-washing, antibiotic resistance and updates on the diagnosis and care of people with symptoms of Anthrax.

MEL Health selects resources relevant to the general public that will be reliable, not speculative or inflammatory. Your continued comments will help keep the pages fresh and relevant.

Please contact Metta Lansdale, MEL Health Information Specialist and Director of the Chelsea District Library
<lansdale@chelsea.lib.mi.us> <lansdale@mel.org>
<mel.org/health/>



I DREAM OF GENE...

By Lucy Roehrig, Library of Michigan Public Service Librarian

The 2001 Abrams Genealogy Series is near its successful completion for the year. Wrapping up the series is the December 1 session entitled Military Records which will be presented by Kris Rzepczynski and Charles Hagler, Public Service librarians at the Library of Michigan. The session is an overview of the numerous military records available at the Library of Michigan and how to effectively use them for genealogy research. In addition, Mark Harvey, reference archivist at the State Archives, will be discussing the military records available to researchers in the Archives.

Other sessions for 2001 included the following: Genealogical Research at the Library of Michigan, Ships' Passenger Lists, Family Reunions, Ontario Records, and African-American Research Resources. The latter is especially worth noting (although all are wonderful!) due to a special guest speaker, Wilma Gibbs, program archivist for African American history at the Indiana Historical Society who discussed strategies for researching the histories of slave and non-slave families. All who attended were extremely grateful to have such a knowledgeable and helpful individual speak to them. Carole Callard, Public Service Genealogy Specialist at the Library of Michigan, hosted this session.

Tentative Abrams Genealogy session titles for 2002 will include: Genealogy Resources at the Michigan Library and Historical Center, Using the Michigan and Michigan Documents Collections for Genealogy, Genealogy on the Internet, Military Records, French Canadian Resources, and Naturalization Records.

All sessions are 90 minutes and the cost is \$10.00 per session or \$50.00 for the entire series. The sessions are on various Saturdays at 9:15 a.m. in the Michigan Historical Center Forum. Handouts and a tour of the genealogy collection are included. The actual session dates are announced on our website and on flyers.

Please visit the website:

<http://www.libraryofmichigan.org/genealogy/genealogy.html> for more information or call Randy Riley or Carole Callard at (517) 373-1300 or toll-free at (877) 479-0021.

2003 Rural Libraries Conference: Somewhere in Time

by Karrie Waarala

Even though the conference is over a year away, plans are being made for the 2003 Rural Library Conference to be held at Mission Point Resort on Mackinac Island, May 4-7, 2003. This promises to be an exciting venue for the conference but it also presents unique challenges. The Promotions Committee wants to keep everyone informed about the progress of the arrangements and are planning to use the *Access* newsletter, discussion lists, and the cooperatives to spread the word. Keep an eye out for interesting tidbits and facts about this great event. If you have any ideas, suggestions, comments, or would like to get involved with the Rural Libraries Conference, please contact Karrie Waarala at the Library of Michigan or any committee member.

Committee Chairpersons

Awards:	Dawn Pringle, Jordan Valley District Library
Entertainment:	Jennifer Dean, Harrison Community Library
Equipment:	Jim Seidl, Woodlands Library Cooperative
Exhibitors:	Kate Mosher, Kalkaska County Library
Hospitality:	Glenda Middleton, Sand Lake Branch Library
Internet:	Kathy Wedyke, Deckerville Public Library
Local Arrangements:	Steve Dix, Mid-Michigan Library League
Programs:	Karrie Waarala, Library of Michigan
Promotions:	Susan Hanson, Harbor Beach Area District Library



Houghton Lake Library Receives Excellence Award

By Sarah Watkins

On Wednesday, November 7, 2001, the Library of Michigan Foundation awarded the first ever State Librarian's Excellence Award to Houghton Lake Public Library for exemplary public service. The 12-member jury panel cited Houghton Lake's enthusiasm, positive attitude, a passion for excellence, and a "can do" attitude as factors in its selection for the honor, which awards \$5,000 in privately raised funds to one library annually.

Two Citations of Excellence were awarded as well. Chesterfield Township Library was recognized for its "human touch" and "commitment to community" and Public Libraries of Saginaw was recognized for its "warm and caring staff" and "relaxed and inviting atmosphere." Both library systems receive great support from their respective communities.

The jury panel included State Librarian, Christie Pearson Brandau; Foundation Board Chair, Al Zehnder; and representatives from Michigan Library Cooperative Association, Trustee Round Table, Special Libraries Association, Michigan Academic Library Council, Michigan Library Association, Michigan Association for Media in Education, Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Chamber of Commerce, and Michigan Townships Association.

"These outstanding libraries deserve congratulations for their excellence in customer service," said State Librarian, Christie Pearson Brandau. "Libraries make such a difference in people's lives, we wanted to recognize the best of the best."



LIBRARY OF
MICHIGAN
FOUNDATION



Christie Pearson Brandau and Sarah Watkins present Donna Alward with Excellence Award and check for \$5,000

The awards were presented at the Excellence Reception, held as part of the MLA Annual Conference, hosted by the Library of Michigan Foundation and the Library of Michigan at the state library in Lansing.

The State Librarian's Excellence Award is made possible through a grant from the Library of Michigan Foundation and is awarded to a Michigan library that best exemplifies excellence in customer service.



Marcia Warner and Carol Selby receiving Citation of Excellence

Al Zehnder and Karen Gervasi



Dr. William Anderson, Christie Pearson Brandau and John Brandau



Bill Gorski, Sarah Watkins and Larry Lipton



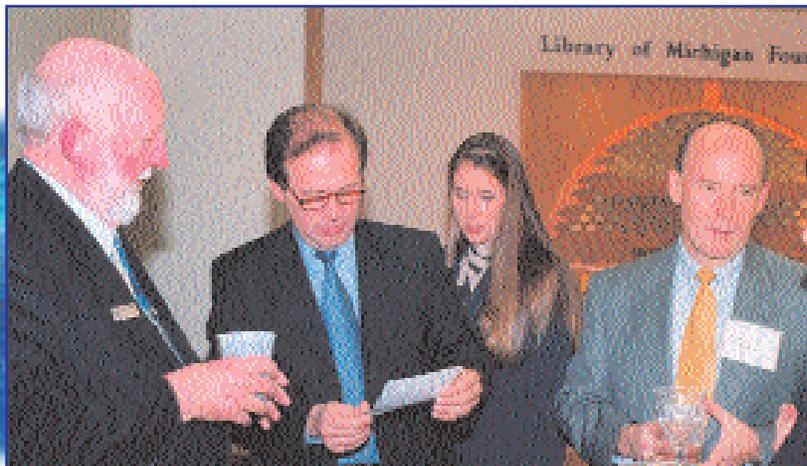
*Senator Martha G. Scott, Dorothy
Upshaw and Frances Tillery*



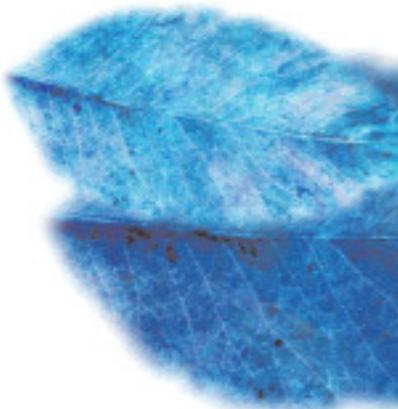
*Kim Frazho, Sharon Bradley
and Donna Alward*

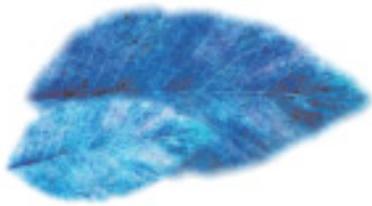


Donna Alward



*Jack Winegarden,
Al Zehnder,
Karen Gervasi and
Mark Morrow*





Thirty-five libraries were nominated for the State Librarian's Excellence Award. Congratulations go to the following libraries for their nominations:

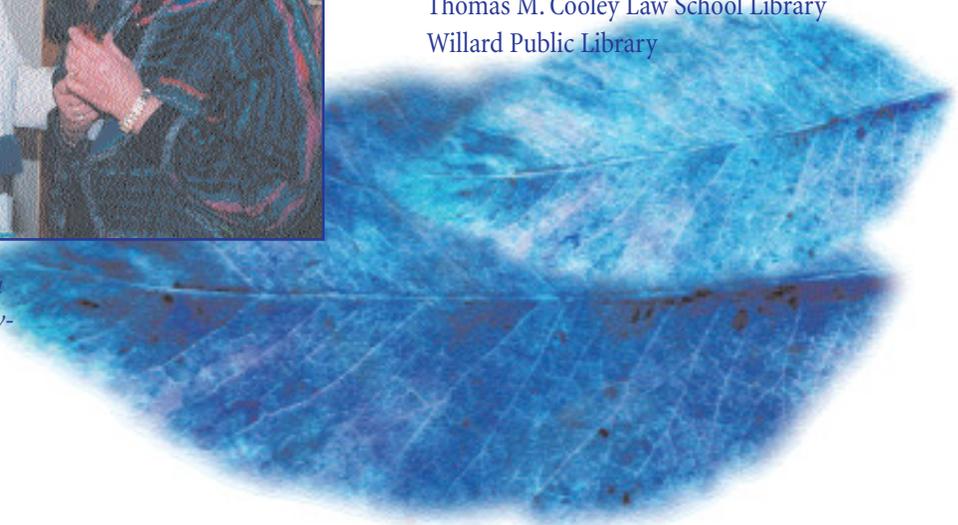


Stephen Graham, Gordon Didier and Elaine Didier



Chrisite Pearson Brandau with Midge Lusardi receiving Citation of Excellence

- Aitkin Memorial Library
- Albion College Library
- Alpena County Library
- Ann Arbor District Library
- Canton Public Library
- Charles A. Ransom District Library
- Chesterfield Township Library
- Clinton-Macomb Public Library
- Curtis Public Library
- East Lansing Public Library
- Family History Center
- Ferris State University
- Flint Public Library
- Genesee District Library
- Grand Rapids Public Library
- Grosse Pointe Public Library
- Holland Community Hospital Library
- Homer Public Library
- Houghton Lake Public Library
- Howell Carnegie District Library
- Jackson District Library
- Kalamazoo Public Library
- Kent District Library
- Macomb Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
- Michigan State University Libraries
- New Media Information Center of Oakland Schools
- Peter White Public Library
- Port Austin Township Library
- Public Libraries of Saginaw
- Reading Community Library
- Riverview Library
- Romeo District Library
- Sterling Heights Public Library
- Thomas M. Cooley Law School Library
- Willard Public Library



Library of Michigan's Technical Services Division 2001 Wrap-up

By Tim Watters

In 2001, the Technical Services Division (TSD) reclassified Michigan government documents that were in a local state document system but are now under the Library of Congress classification system. The LC system is much more widely used and other libraries can now rely on the Library of Michigan to provide LC classifications in shared MARC records. As of October, TSD has also ended the current project with OCLC's Tech-Pro outsourcing service. The remaining documents have nearly all been cataloged by the Library and now will be reclassified. Overall in 2001, TSD received over 6,300 titles comprised of over 16,000 volumes of Michigan documents. Almost 80,000 documents were distributed in 16 shipments to libraries statewide.

Other accomplishments include:

- TSD completed the planning process and began implementing its Strategic Plan. One of the outcomes is an internal TSD website.
- In some cases, materials are now received six times faster as a result of the implementation of a procurement card to obtain materials this year.
- Major Rare Book purchases included a mid-19th century manuscript on the Lake Superior Mining District and custom-made storage boxes for rare law items.
- RFP's were sent out, the Serials team selected a new vendor, and preparations began for the transfer.
- The Government Documents Team was commended by the U.S. Government Printing Office (more on that in our next issue). The Documents Team also began a retrospective conversion project for uncataloged materials and set up a website for depository libraries to check on the disposal list process.
- TSD ordered, processed and cataloged over \$100,000 of genealogical materials purchased with Abrams Foundation money.
- Through the Michigan Newspaper Project, TSD has continued cataloging newspaper collections throughout the state. The cataloging phase is quickly drawing to a conclusion with microfilming set to begin in the summer of 2002.
- Some key statistics for TSD in 2001: 2,799 titles have been originally cataloged, 18,244 titles have been copy cataloged, and 50,322 items have been added to the Library of Michigan collection and are available for use by all Michigan residents.

Kalamazoo Public Library First in the Nation to Adopt MP3 Technology

By Anne Marie Saputo, Public Information Office Intern

MP3 players are now used for more than just listening to music files. Kalamazoo Public Library is the first library in the nation to offer patrons digital audio books using library-owned MP3 players. Best-selling titles that are hard to come by on library shelves can now be downloaded from Audible.com, the leading provider of downloadable spoken word audio.

The way it works is simple. Audible.com takes a recording of a book and converts the sound into a file that a computer can play. For a certain amount of money the library can pick from a list of many book titles and transfer the file to the library's computer. At this point the file is then downloaded onto an MP3 player and is available for patron use.

"Patron response regarding the new technology has been positive," says Karl Knack, a library assistant in the loan services department of the Kalamazoo Public Library, "Most patrons who try the players become repeat borrowers, making for increased competition among patrons for players."

There are several advantages to using this digital technology. Books on cassette tapes are easily lost and broken while damage to digital content is rare. Also, the MP3 players can hold up to 28 hours of spoken content, which is roughly a total of three books. Another bonus is the immediate availability of bestsellers, usually within the first week of the release date. With audiotapes or CD versions of best-selling books the waiting period can be one to two months.

The cost of the MP3 players is about \$200, and at the time this article was written the Kalamazoo Public Library owned twenty. For an unabridged version of a book, the cost of downloading is from \$20 to \$30, and the average length is 10 to 14 hours. Since the library can offer more than one download at a time, they pay Audible.com anywhere from two to five times the cost of the download, depending on how popular the staff predict the book will be.

"Audible has been a very accessible partner when it comes to giving us immediate help with any troubles we've had with players and downloads, which have been very few!" Knack said.

At the Kalamazoo Public Library patrons are able to check out MP3 players for two weeks without renewal. An imprint of the patron's credit card is made, and a fee is applied if there is any damage to the device. Patrons have enjoyed such books as George Carlin's "Napalm and Silly Putty," "Bridget Jones's Diary" by Helen Fielding, and John Grisham's "Painted House."



Have an LSTA Success Story to Share?

by Karrie Waarala

Have you been able to improve library service in your community as the result of federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding? Has your community benefited from statewide programs funded with LSTA dollars? If the answer is yes, please consider writing your "success story" so that legislators who are responsible for the reauthorization of the Library Services and Technology Act might be able to see anecdotal information about how this program touches lives, enhances broad access to information, and improves library service. Whether you discuss an individual grant, a collaborative project, or the effect of statewide projects, your story will be a valuable contribution to the ALA website on LSTA Success Stories at <https://cs.ala.org/lsta/>

Take a look at the site to see examples of previous postings, create your story, and then send a copy Naomi Krefman at the Library of Michigan (nkrefman@libraryofmichigan.org). She will make sure that your article is posted to this website for Michigan.

You may also wish to check <http://www.ala.org/washoff/lsta.html> which is a website currently under construction. It has a link to the LSTA reauthorization brochure put out by the American Library Association.



Mi-Lib-Tech: Library of Michigan to Offer Videoconference and Face-to-Face Classes

By Carol McAllister

The Library of Michigan has received a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to help implement a technology training plan that will impact every librarian and library staff member in Michigan's public libraries. To reach the greatest potential audience, this plan includes three parts: Web-based, videoconference, and traditional face-to-face (F2F) classes.

As part of this three-pronged approach to technology training, the Library of Michigan started offering Web-based classes in November (read the article "Mi-Lib-Tech: Plugging into the Future for Michigan's Libraries" in the November issue of *Access*) and will offer videoconference classes starting in January 2002 and face-to-face (F2F) classes starting in April 2002.

The following is a loose schedule of classes that will be offered. If you have a particular interest in hosting a class at your location, please contact Carol McAllister at (517) 373-4836, toll-free at (877) 479-0021 or cmcallis@libraryofmichigan.org.

Videoconference Classes

January-February:	<i>Technology Planning</i> Why I Need IT Classes
February:	<i>Technology Planning</i> Creating a Content Server
June:	<i>Computer Troubleshooting</i>
August:	<i>IT Survival Skills</i>
November:	<i>Using the Internet</i>

F2F Classes

April:	<i>IT Survival Skills</i>
May:	<i>Why I Need IT Classes</i>
June:	<i>Computer Troubleshooting</i>
July:	<i>Creating a Content Server</i>
August:	<i>IT Survival Skills</i>
September:	<i>Computer Troubleshooting</i>
October:	<i>Customized Class TBD</i>
November:	<i>Using the Internet</i>

For additional information, please visit:
<http://gates.libraryofmichigan.org> and <http://libraryofmichigan.org/services/milibtech.html>.

Trustees Corner

By Dragomir Cosanici, Library Law Specialist



The USA Patriot Act and Library Privacy

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 have triggered new federal legislation aimed at aiding federal law enforcement in its quest to prevent and stamp out terrorism. On October 26, 2001, President Bush signed into law the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001. This new federal legislation, Public Law 107-56, is also known as the USA Patriot Act. This law expands the powers of federal law enforcement agencies investigating cases that involve foreign intelligence and international terrorism. It is 131 pages in length and it is divided in 1016 different sections.

Although the vast majority of the act does not directly affect libraries, one provision is very much applicable to public libraries. According to section 215 of the USA Patriot Act, librarians and staff served with a search warrant or court order may not disclose its very existence to anyone other than those persons necessary to produce the tangible things sought by the warrant or order. This means that librarians and library staff are not permitted to discuss the existence of such a document produced for the benefit of federal law enforcement unless such discussion is necessary in order to obtain the things sought.

This does not mean that the libraries are powerless or that patrons' privacy rights have somehow lessened or evaporated. The USA Patriot Act does not abrogate the Michigan Library Privacy Act. In fact the Michigan Library Privacy Act is still very much in effect, and its force remains untouched by this latest piece of federal legislation. As a result, libraries and librarians served with such a warrant may still consult with their legal counsel concerning the warrant. A library and its employees may still seek legal advice concerning the warrant, in addition to requesting that the library's attorney be present during actual search and the execution of the warrant.

It remains true, however, that our world has changed since that infamous date. Our libraries and staff must adapt to this latest change. Consequently, library policies should be updated to reflect the existence of this new non-disclosure requirement found in the USA Patriot Act. Staff and librarians should be made aware of this change and trained in the correct procedures for responding to this new requirement. If your library does not have a formal policy on handling such requests from law enforcement, it is time to put them in writing. Be prepared just in case your library is called to fulfill such requests for information and tangible things by federal law enforcement.

Many questions still remain about the impact of this new law on libraries and their policies. The Library of Michigan is diligently working with the American Library Association, its Office of Intellectual Freedom and legal counsel to keep Michigan libraries up-to-date on any new developments or explanations concerning the USA Patriot Act. Look for more information in *Access* and on the American Library Association's own website. Please also watch for announcements on *michlib-1* and from your library cooperatives.

HAPPY



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On October 26th, a dozen community college library directors met at MLA headquarters to formalized a new group to share common concerns. The Michigan Community College Libraries (MCCL) will assist the twenty-eight publicly-supported community college library directors and libraries to pursue shared programming and interests. Marty Stilwell, Kellogg CC, will serve as chairperson this year with Louise Bucco, Kirtland CC, serving as chair-elect. For more information, contact Ms. Stilwell at - stilwellm@kellogg.cc.mi.us.



Marcia A. Warner, Director of Public Libraries of Saginaw (MI) Named Career Woman of the Year

The Saginaw Chapter of the National Association of Career Women has selected Marcia A. Warner, Director of the Public Libraries of Saginaw, as their 2001 Career Woman of the Year. Ms. Warner was honored for her professional career in libraries, which includes being active in state and national professional associations. She was also cited for her ability to recognize the value of all employees, knowing that each person has something special to give the organization. Ms. Warner's involvement with local organizations was also noted, including her involvement with the Downtown Saginaw Association, the Saginaw Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Saginaw and the Exchange Club of Saginaw. The National Association of Career Women was established in 1979 in Lansing, Michigan. It provides a forum for women in business, management and the professions to associate for the purpose of promoting professional and personal growth.



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also includes the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the Michigan Film Office, and the Michigan Historical Center.

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