



## LSTA Funds in Michigan Providing Access to Information to All Michigan Residents

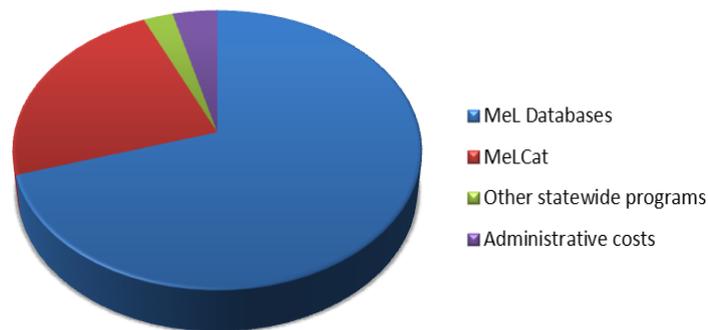
### Federal Fiscal Year 2011 (10/1/2010 – 9/30/2012)

The Library of Michigan manages federal funds for libraries in Michigan. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) provides the funds through the Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA). The Library of Michigan funds projects based on how well they match the goals of Michigan's IMLS approved five-year plan. The LSTA legislation and the five-year plan are at [www.michigan.gov/lsta](http://www.michigan.gov/lsta).

### How are LSTA funds used?

Currently, Michigan uses LSTA funds primarily for statewide programs that benefit school, public, academic and special libraries users and Michigan residents directly. The federal FY 2011 allotment was \$4,676,712. The premier program is the Michigan eLibrary (MeL), a virtual library available at [www.mel.org](http://www.mel.org), anytime, anywhere to all Michigan residents.

### Federal FY 2011 LSTA Funds



### Michigan eLibrary (MeL)

- **MeL Databases** – Hundreds of thousands of subscription magazine and newspaper articles, reference book articles, art images, historical documents and images, curriculum materials and other full-text materials. Content ranges from the K-12 level to professional and research levels in science, medicine, education, technology,

humanities, arts, social sciences, law and genealogy. Spanish language materials are available, especially for K-12 students.

- **MeLCat** – A popular statewide library catalog and resource-sharing network. Users can search the catalog from [www.MeL.org](http://www.MeL.org) or directly from their participating local library catalog. Michigan residents are using MeLCat to easily identify and request convenient, quick and free delivery of materials from other participating Michigan libraries to their own library for pick up.
- **MeL Michigana** – Digitized local historical resources from Michigan libraries, including family papers, photographs, diaries, obituaries, newspapers, maps, archives and other local documents and commercial history resources. These materials illustrate Michigan's past and place in American history through primary sources on towns, counties, and individuals and topics such as the Civil War and the automotive, shipping and lumbering industries.
- **MeL eBooks** – A collection of over 24,000 non-fiction and reference electronic books for academics and professionals. Topics include science, computers, business, education and humanities among others.
- **MeL Gateways** – A balanced collection of quality Internet sites selected by librarians that are Michigan-related or particularly useful to Michigan residents.
- **MeL Tests, Tutorials & Workforce Development** – A comprehensive, interactive online learning platform of occupational, licensing and academic practice tests and tutorials for K-16 and job seekers, from GED assistance to the GRE. The Job & Career Accelerator section covers a broad area of workforce skills building— from career planning and preparation, job search skills, to resume writing and interviewing skills.
- **Michigan Online Resources for Educators (M.O.R.E.)** – A portal to tens of thousands of quality educational materials that are web-based and aligned with the state's current curriculum standards and the national Common Core state standards. This portal helps K-12 teachers and homeschoolers find the right materials for their students quickly and easily, allowing them to focus their time on teaching.

### **Other Major Statewide Programs**

- **Support for the Children's Literacy** – High-quality, resource-filled summer reading manuals from the Collaborative Summer Library Program are provided to public libraries, saving the libraries both staff time and money. In 2012, 49% of libraries sent us statistics and in just those libraries, 81,975 children under 12 and 14,427 teens participated in this literacy improving program. Support for the Michigan Reads! statewide early literacy program also helped provide materials and visits from an author to over 580,000 students and young children.

- **Plinkit** – Michigan participates in this nation-wide collaborative to provide state-of-the-art Web sites for public libraries at no charge to the libraries, giving their communities online access to statewide resources. The project includes training on an east-to-use interface for non-technical staff, software support and hosting. At the end of state FY 2012 the project served 117 small and rural communities.
- **E-rate training and support** – Michigan libraries have access to annual training and personalized assistance to participate in E-rate, the federal program that provides for reduced cost Internet and telecommunications connectivity. Nearly 2.9 M in federal support was committed to Michigan libraries from July 2011 to June 2012.
- **Support for Improved Services through Continuing Education for Librarians** – LSTA funds sponsored workshops for librarians throughout the state, giving library staff the opportunity to learn new techniques and methods to reach underserved residents, especially in areas of workforce development, rural library services and digital literacy.

### **How does Michigan receive LSTA funds?**

Congress funds the Library Services & Technology Act annually through an appropriation to the Institute of Museum and Library Services. IMLS then allocates the funds through a formula with a base amount per state plus a per capita amount. To receive LSTA funds, the State of Michigan must both match the federal funds and maintain a level of effort through state or private funds.

Matching funds may be state or private and must equal approximately 50% of the federal allotment. States must meet the matching requirement to receive the allotment. Maintenance of effort is determined by a three-year average of state funds. These funds must be spent on libraries in a way that supports the purpose of the LSTA Act. In Michigan, that funding is primarily state aid to public libraries. If the average falls, the allotment amount falls by the same percentage.

### **The Impact of LSTA programs on Michigan Residents**

We regularly receive comments about the importance of these programs to students, professionals, businesses, and teachers, among many others. The following are a selection from the last year.

"When teaching online literacy workshops to Oakland County employees, to small business professionals, or to students at Oakland Community College, I always recommend [mel.org](http://mel.org) for additional, reliable information sources. Not only are these helpful sources beyond the local library walls, they're accessible 24/7!"

"A friend recommended some books for my daughter .... I figured I could a) find them in the used bookstore or b) get them from the MSU library. No dice! Bookstore hadn't heard of them, MSU, OSU and other universities have them but are holding

them "for library use only". Then I looked through the MeL.org: Michigan eLibrary found one right away and it is headed to my library now! Thanks MeLCat!! You rock!"

"We have used the Learning Express part of the MEL.org site in order to help our students see what skills they will need for the jobs they want to have in the future."

"What's not to like? It's available 24/7 and free. Okay I know it's paid for with some of everyone's tax money, but it's a great return on my investment."

"MeL has been an invaluable resource for our family over the past decade. The books we've borrowed through MeL have contributed immensely to the rich learning environment in our home school. MeL has enabled our entire family to research special interests and enjoy many classic books which are no longer in print. In these economically lean years, MeL assists local libraries in disseminating knowledge to low-to mid-level-income families who could not otherwise access books. MeL is a tremendous blessing to our family! A Michigan without MeL would be truly desolate."

"This morning a young lady came in and needed books about small business planning. We don't have updated references for this, but the MEL Database has one entire section on Small Business Resource Center. She was amazed to see that she could do her entire business plan right from this MEL site!!"