Introduction

The 2013 Michigan Public Libraries Statistics comprises compiled data Excel spreadsheets. Data was collected as part of the 2012/2013 Annual Report/State Aid Application. Library systems were asked to report data that includes their main and branch libraries. The reporting year for the public libraries is the most recent fiscal year completed by each library prior to October 1, 2012. The Report form was accessed by libraries via the Internet, at: https://mdoe.state.mi.us/AnnualReport/AnnualReport.html and submitted electronically. The collection cycle commenced on October 1, 2012 and concluded on February 1, 2013.

Definitions for public library data elements are based on the Public Library Survey Cooperative (PLSC) of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. By using this national system and its definitions of terms, Michigan's data is comparable with that of the other 49 states and the District of Columbia. The national data for Fiscal Year 2010 is available in a publication entitled, Public Libraries Survey: Fiscal Year 2010, by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. A complete list of publications and public library data can be downloaded from the Web at http://www.imls.gov

Public library data is presented by class size, which is determined by population. The calculated total for "Population of Library Service Area" exceeds the state's total population because more than one public library may count the same population. For example, a district library may share part of another library's service area by virtue of having a participating municipality, such as a school district, with geographic boundaries extending into the adjoining library's service area. Statewide totals, averages, and per capita were calculated based on the actual total state unduplicated population.

Data in the compiled spreadsheets include: Salary and Benefit Information, Non-Resident Fees, and Technology, Outlets, Hours and Staff, Operating Income & Expenditures, Capital Income & Expenditures, Library Collections, Library Services and Square Footage.

Special Considerations:

Community District Library, Iosco-Arenac District Library, Kent District Library, Lapeer District Library, and Muskegon Area District Library did not report central libraries. These entities reported administrative structure as: administrative entity with multiple direct service outlets where administrative offices are separate. They are included in the 388 public libraries in the statewide summary reports.

A blank or '-1' indicates that the library did not report on that particular data element. Data was accepted as reported. In some cases, libraries were contacted to clarify responses. There were no imputations for libraries that did not respond or for items left blank. Thus, unless the response rate to a data element was 100 percent, totals in the tables are probably underestimates.

Interpretation & Usage

Though each library is unique in many ways, many share the challenge in demonstrating their effect on their community. Despite varying circumstances, similar methods are undertaken as each library strives to better serve their patrons. The Annual Report was devised to find a consistent way to gather uniform data that can be presented in such a way that allows for interpretation and comparison with one another.

When analyzing the data, keep in mind:

- *Caution should be used when comparing any one library with national, state or class averages*. One data element alone cannot tell a complete story. Rather, data elements should be interpreted in context with each other and with the individual library's overall service program and budget. Additionally, even libraries of similar size have varying funding patterns and different service goals (e.g. A reference and resource library will show a different pattern of statistics than a popular materials library will.).
- *There is no need to limit library comparisons to those in the same class size.* Population alone cannot determine the best means for analysis. For example, many libraries find Operating Income or Operating Expenditures to be a more useful variable, while others are more interested in simply comparing a library with other libraries in the same county.
- *Data alone cannot define certain components that are immeasurable.* Statistical data can only suggest patterns and indicate areas that may need improvement or special attention by the local decision-makers. The people that maintain and support libraries clearly are what make each library unique.

The Library of Michigan provides this data to information specialists, librarians, trustees, government officials and the general public as they evaluate library activities and plan improvements in library services. Participation in filing the Annual Report demonstrates cooperation among Michigan public libraries and cooperatives and devises national leadership and recognition. Common usage of library statistics include:

- Demonstrating effective use of public funds while providing a clear vision of what libraries do for the community.
- Allocating resources for various library operations, including collection development, staffing and programming.
- Justifying statements of need for new services, building structures or technology equipment.
- Supporting local long-range planning efforts.
- Providing a historical record.

Appreciation is extended to all respondents for the accurate reporting of these statistics. Comments and questions regarding this report are invited, and every effort is made to ensure data is as complete and useful as possible.

Additionally, the Library of Michigan can provide more detailed information to libraries on request. Interested individuals can obtain specialized reports on specific information for this and previous years. Please direct your questions or comments to Joseph Hamlin, Library Data Coordinator, at the Library of Michigan, 702 West Kalamazoo Street, P.O. Box 30007, Lansing, MI 48909-7507, email: hamlinj2@michigan.gov