



Improving Access to Information Grants for 2020/2021

TEN LIBRARIES AWARDED NEW LSTA IMPROVING ACCESS TO INFORMATION GRANTS

The Library of Michigan (LM) is pleased to announce ten Improving Access to Information grants for the 2020/2021 fiscal year. This year has been extraordinary in many ways, including how Michigan's libraries step up to provide services to their communities. As we dealt with closures and quarantine, 23 academic and public libraries applied for the Improving Access to Information grants to provide further access and services to their students and communities.

The Improving Access to Information grant program is intended to help Michigan's public and academic libraries provide improved access to collections in one of three areas; literacy, local history or special collections; and services to community users with limited online access, e.g. improving equity through digital inclusion. Alpena County Library, Central Michigan University, Ferris State University and Presque Isle District Library received grants for local history or special collections digitization or support. Capital Area District Library, Menominee County Library, Taylor Community Library and Warren Public Library were awarded grants for digital inclusion or digital literacy. Traverse Area District Library received an award for STEM education collection support and Walsh College of Accountancy and Business Administration received an award for Open Educational Resources. The project descriptions are listed below.

Alpena County Library – "Digitization and Access to Large Format Alpena and Shipping History Archives" - \$7,693

The Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library will digitize Special Collections materials in three areas - ship plans of Great Lakes Maritime vessels, historic maps, historic photographs, archaeological site maps, and more. These materials are non-standards sizes and vary in condition, making digitization difficult. Through this project, the images will be added to the Great Lakes Maritime database, a collection of regional historic materials on shipping in the Great Lakes.

Capital Area District Library – "Digital Inclusion through iPad Kit Lending" - \$25,000

Digital access is extremely important in today's world. This project will add iPad Kits to the Library of Things collection. The iPads will include a selection of apps focused on a variety of school subject areas and productivity. Access to the Kits will improve access to information and strives for digital inclusion for patrons who are without devices and/or online access. The Kits will be specifically promoted at targeted low-income outreach events to reach those most in need.

Central Michigan University – “Digital Michigan Newspaper Portal Enhancement” - \$24,927

The project would supplement the Michigan Digital Newspaper Portal created and maintained by Central Michigan University’s (CMU) Clarke Historical Library (CHL). It will create a single, comprehensive, publicly accessible, online tool available to researchers that identifies online Michigan newspaper resources.

Ferris State University – “Finding Ferris and Big Rapids: Photos and Institutional Repository Modernization” - \$8,305

Finding Ferris and Big Rapids will provide a new way to find historical photos and information about Ferris State University and Mecosta County. During this project, the Ferris State Archives will focus on the scanning and/or uploading of historic photographs which were previously only available after consultation with archives staff. The photograph repository will be merged with one containing historic documents and the project will allow the inclusion of photos from the community as well.

Menominee County Library – “Public Wi-Fi Access Points for Menominee County” - \$9,700

The project will bring free public Wi-Fi to township hall parking lots around the county. This project will install all necessary equipment and provide the service contract. COVID-19 interval has shown that rural residents need fair access to the internet to access educational opportunities, complete work, and access web-based services necessary for routine life.

Presque Isle District Library – “Presque Isle County Sesquicentennial (1871-2021) Historical Collection Digitization Project” - \$15,084

The Presque Isle District Library and the Presque Isle County Historical Museum will digitize Presque Isle County’s history dating back to 1861. The historical documents and publications are in fragile formats. This combined effort will preserve the Great Lakes maritime and lumbering history, Ojibwe settlements, European homesteading, the historic Calcite Collection that documents the largest open pit limestone quarry in the world, oral history recordings from second generation settlers, archival correspondence, and related documents.

Taylor Community Library – “Technology Training Kits” - \$16,730

Taylor Community Library will create a circulating collection of Technology Training Kits that include Wi-Fi hotspots and Chromebook laptops. Since the onset of COVID-19, internet adoption and in-home technology availability have proven to be significant issues. This program will provide immediate solutions for those who are more comfortable using technology-- specifically families with children who are learning from home.

Traverse Area District Library – “STEM Kits in Regional Libraries” - \$14,809

Families often cannot afford high-quality STEM-related learning games and toys that develop creative and analytical thinking, problem-solving, coding, and scientific observation skills. In this project, Traverse Area District Library will expand their STEM Kit lending program with participating libraries in Leelanau, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Antrim counties to provide broad access to STEM education in the five-county area.

Warren Public Library – “Have Laptops - Will Travel” - \$25,000

Warren Public Library intends to bridge the digital and educational divide by providing outreach to senior centers, schools, and other community locations within the library's service area, as well as by expanding our Wi-Fi access at our main branch. With this grant, our staff plans to purchase equipment that would permit us to visit various locations and provide digital literacy instruction to those who cannot visit the library for instruction.

Walsh College of Accountancy and Business Administration – “Open Educational Resources (OER) Program” - \$25,000

This program will provide students equal access to affordable course materials through the transformation of traditional textbooks and curriculum to an online medium that is low or no cost to the student. Walsh will educate our staff and faculty in the selection, development, and deployment of OER materials and begin implementation of open educational resources for our non-traditional and low-income students.

If you would like more information about the Library of Michigan grant programs, please go to www.michigan.gov/lsta and see the grant programs sections for program descriptions and documentation.

The Library of Michigan grant programs are made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.