

LIBRARY SERVICES & TECHNOLOGY ACT MICHIGAN REPORT FOR 2019

Randy Riley, State Librarian | Karren Reish, LSTA Coordinator & Editor



INFORMATION PARTNERS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Library of Michigan's Mission	4
2019 LSTA Overview	4
2019 Key Facts	5
Michigan LSTA Program Goals	6
STATEWIDE PROJECTS – Serving All of Michigan's Residents	7
MeL – the Michigan eLibrary	7
MeL Components	8
MeLCat – the Michigan eLibrary Catalog	9
Childhood & Family Literacy Support... Summer Reading and Ready to Read! ...	10
Library & Cultural Collaborations through Grants	11
Improving Services through Continuing Education	12
<i>Library of Michigan Hosted Events and Resources</i>	12
<i>Partner Hosted Events and Resources</i>	13
Technology Support	13
Programming and Professional Development Resources	14
Support for Rural Communities... the Ploud Collaborative	15
Michigan Residents Speak	Back Cover

LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN'S MISSION

The Michigan Legislature created the Library of Michigan to guarantee the people of this State and their government one perpetual institution to collect, preserve and provide access to the story of the State, and to support libraries in their role as essential community anchors.

2019 LSTA OVERVIEW

In 2019, Michigan's \$4,461,273 in LSTA funding supported resources and services for public, academic, K-12 and special libraries as well as Michigan residents. The majority of LSTA funds coming to Michigan supported the Michigan eLibrary "MeL" (Mel.org), which included:

- Licensed databases with quality published information ranging from general information to specialized research;
- K-12 and higher education test preparation; occupational tests and job training;
- Support and training for Library Staff and Educators to create a MeL eResources experience that is customized to their specific community needs; and
- MeLCat, a statewide library catalog and patron-initiated interlibrary loan service.

Other statewide services included summer reading programming; the Ready to Read Michigan early literacy program; continuing education for librarians and library trustees through resources, workshops and training; technology support for small and rural libraries; programming grants for public libraries; and collaborative community services grants.

These projects provided a wide range of information and resources for Michigan's residents. They also are significant cost savings for individuals, municipalities and educational institutions. The collaborative nature of the projects and the cost savings from statewide purchasing allow the Library of Michigan and libraries throughout the state to provide residents a wealth of quality online and print resources and programs for a minimal cost.

2019 KEY FACTS ABOUT LSTA IN MICHIGAN

- Ready to Read Michigan, the statewide early literacy program for library staff serving children, provided materials, training and support to all public libraries with materials based on *Touch the Brightest Star* by Christie Matheson. The program is based on the nationally recognized early literacy program Every Child Ready to Read (ECRR) – and encourages use of the five elements of Talking, Singing, Reading, Playing, Writing.
- Michigan residents borrowed over 1.1 million books, audiobooks, and other library materials through MeLCat. Local libraries saved over \$42 million dollars by sharing these items.
- 474 libraries are MeLCat members; including 94% of public libraries, as well as academic, school and special libraries, giving a much great variety of resources to their patrons.
- A range of quality early literacy resources are available at no cost to parents, caregivers, libraries. These include MeL content and a range of early literacy professional development.
- People downloaded 21.2 million documents from MeL databases, which is more than two items for every person in Michigan.
- Public libraries received \$147,000 for quick summer programming grants for technology, children & teen, or literacy activities.
- Several thousand public, school and academic library staff received training on a wide range of programming ideas, outreach, collections, and management topics at minimal costs in 2019 through workshops, webinars and conferences.
- A cohort of directors of small and rural public libraries began participating in an intensive leadership training course, a collaboration of the University of Michigan School of Information and the Library of Michigan.

MICHIGAN LSTA PROGRAM GOALS

The LSTA Five-Year Plan for Michigan, October 2017 through September 2022 addresses the needs of Michigan residents for information and library services with four goals. These goals were determined through an evaluation of the previous Five-Year Plan and community needs assessments, which included insights from residents and library staff from rural and urban areas across the state.

A specific focus of the goals is to bring services directly to residents by assisting local libraries in communities across the state.

Goal 1: Michigan residents will have equal access to information resources in various formats for lifelong learning.

Need: Users need equitable access to materials, both print and digital, on a range of topics at their point of use. To address this, libraries need a consistent and stable source of materials to meet this need, especially in underserved urban and rural areas.



Goal 2: Michigan residents will have access to current services and training support through their libraries.

Need: Users need access to current services and training, especially in rural and underserved urban areas of the state. Areas of need include workforce development, information and technology literacy, reading literacy, and assistance with a range of social and government services. To address this, libraries need professional development and resources to meet these needs.

Goal 3: Michigan libraries will continue to support their communities through collective impact initiatives and community engagement.

Need: Users need supportive communities where community groups and agencies focus on the collective impact for residents. To address this, libraries need training and assistance to participate in these collaborative community engagement programs.

Goal 4: Michigan residents will be able to use Michigan's historical and cultural collections for lifelong learning.

Need: Users need easily discoverable access to library and cultural collections within and across their communities. To address this, libraries need resources and assistance to provide effective access to these resources.

Proposed programs and measures for outputs and outcomes for each goal are listed in the Five-Year Plan at www.Michigan.gov/LSTA. The Five-Year Plan for 2017-2022 is a guide for the Library of Michigan in assisting the Michigan library community to provide appropriate, quality services and programs in their communities.

STATEWIDE PROJECTS

SERVING ALL OF MICHIGAN'S RESIDENTS

MeL – The Michigan eLibrary

Mission: Michigan's virtual library, MeL, gives Michigan residents the information they need, when they need it, where they need it, and in the format they desire.

The Michigan eLibrary ("MeL," at [Mel.org](https://mel.org)) is Michigan's statewide virtual library, an essential tool for Michigan's residents. Through statewide subscriptions, MeL provides comprehensive topical information ranging from auto repair to zoos. Resources are available 24/7 and include full-text articles; interactive encyclopedias; eBooks; car repair manuals; interactive K-16 academic and occupational practice exams; digital history collections; genealogy and local history; and a variety of other quality commercially published information.

The MeL materials are designed to serve job seekers, entrepreneurs and business owners, workers seeking retraining, college, high school and elementary school students, parents, homeschoolers, educators, and lifelong learners.

MeL is a backbone of Michigan's library resources for students and other residents and a great return on investment. In 2019, people downloaded 21.2 million documents and articles. This is nearly three searches and more than two documents per person in Michigan.

MeL databases and other eResources are a significant savings for K-12 schools, higher education and public libraries. For each \$1 spent in federal and state funds, the Library of Michigan saves residents using the resources \$24.05. Statewide contracts also save libraries and schools the effort necessary to negotiate with vendors and maintain the services.



MeL Components

Databases – Hundreds of thousands of subscription magazine and newspaper articles, reference book articles, art images, eBooks, historical documents and images, and other full-text materials. Content ranges from PreK-12 levels to professional and research levels in science, medicine, education, technology, humanities, arts, social sciences, law and genealogy. Spanish language materials are available for PreK-12 students and translation is available in magazine and newspaper databases to support learners who are learning or speak other languages. State funds also support early literacy resources.

MeLCat – The statewide library catalog and resource-sharing network. Users can search the catalog from www.MeL.org/Melcat 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.

eBooks – A collection of thousands of non-fiction and reference electronic books for K-12 students and teachers, college-level academics and professionals. Topics include science, computers, business, education and humanities among others.

Tests, Tutorials & Workforce Development – A comprehensive, interactive site with occupational, licensing and academic practice tests and tutorials for K-16 and job seekers, from the GED to the GRE.

Training and Support – A robust collection of materials designed to support easier independent use of MeL eResources in two ways. First, engagement specialists connect with Library Staff and Educators for training sessions. Second, content is created to support self-directed learning, practical applications, and promotion of eResources.



MeLCat – The Michigan eLibrary Catalog

MeLCat is a virtual statewide library catalog and resource-sharing network. Member libraries share both a catalog that library users can search and a commitment to sharing their collections. Books, DVDs and other materials are delivered via a fast statewide delivery service that is free to library users. In 2019, MeLCat was a combined library collection of over 49 million items.

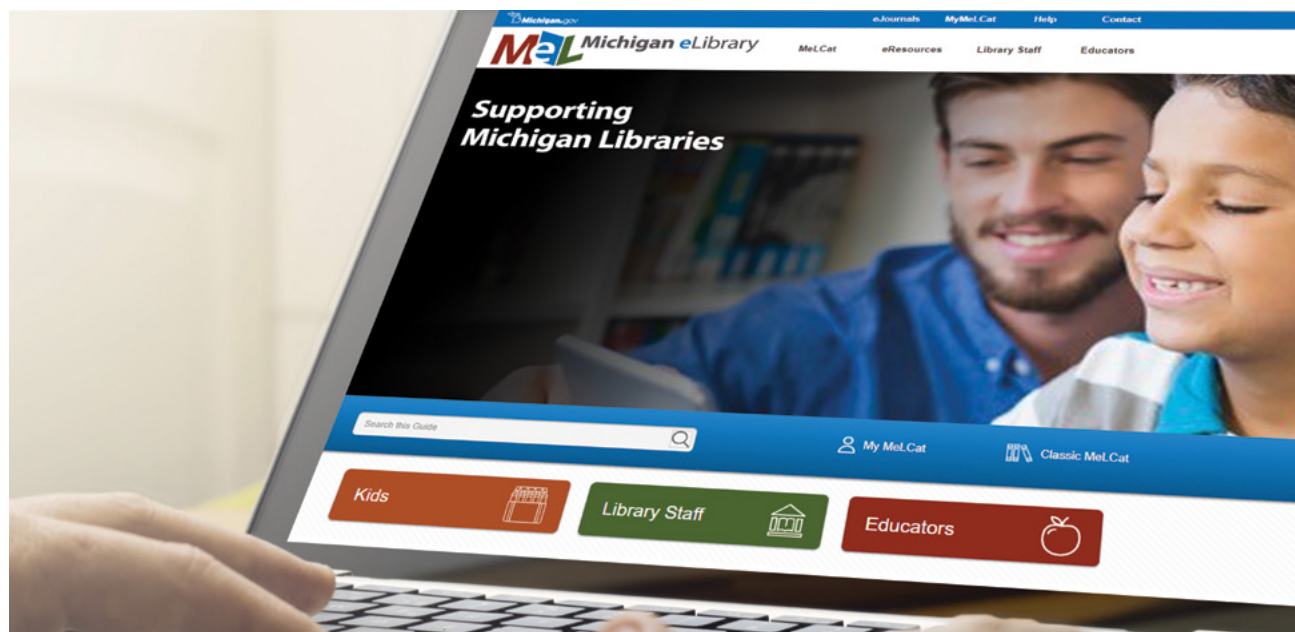
Michigan residents use the catalog to easily find and request convenient delivery of materials to their home library. In 2019, they did so over 1.2 million times or 3,500 times per day every day of the year. The requested materials were delivered in three to five days and a significant number of the requests were delivered in less time. Through this service, local communities did not need to purchase over \$42 million dollars of materials needed by their residents.

The residents who request materials are students, educators, business professionals, rural and urban residents – all users with a participating library card have ready access from home, work or school to more sources than any individual library could own. In rural areas especially, the program has a strong impact.

Two new libraries joined the collaborative in 2019, while twenty-five libraries completed a systems migration, and in-depth support and training of continuing members is an ongoing service. At the end of the last fiscal year, 474 libraries were participating members. MeLCat includes libraries from every area of the state, making it a true statewide service. Public, school, academic and special libraries all participate in the statewide catalog and they do not have to convert to a common integrated library catalog system, saving local funds and staff time.

MeLCat is also a true collaboration. Member librarians participate in planning committees and user groups. MeLCat is a voluntary program with local delivery costs and local staff participation so the number of public, academic and school libraries that participate speak to the value it has for diverse communities.

LSTA funding has allowed Michigan's libraries and communities to reach out and share their expertise and their collections with each other.



Childhood & Family Literacy Support: Summer Reading and Ready to Read!

Summer Reading

Summer Reading programs at public libraries use materials from the national Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP). LSTA funds the Library of Michigan's participation in CSLP as well as an online Summer Reading book club service, Wandoo Reader. Membership in the collaborative allows the state library to provide high-quality, comprehensive summer reading manuals to all public libraries, saving the libraries both staff time and funds. These manuals include activities and materials for early literacy, children, young adults, adults and families reading together. Libraries used the 2019 *A Universe of Stories* theme to teach children about space science. Using Wandoo Reader, public libraries can provide online access to their summer reading program so that participants can log in from virtually anywhere.

In studies, children who participate in summer reading maintain or increase their reading levels throughout the summer. This helps develop children's interest in personal reading and encourages them to improve their reading skills. Michigan's participation in this program allows local library staff to focus more on working with children rather than developing materials and provides greater access to programming for children.

Ready to Read Michigan Program

The Library of Michigan's Ready to Read Michigan is hosted by public libraries during March is Reading Month to promote the importance of reading aloud to young children throughout the state. The program includes a kit based on a picture book that brings public librarians together with parents, caregivers and teachers to highlight early literacy activities for children from birth to 5 years old. The kit is updated annually with a new book and new programming materials.



In 2019, the book was *Touch the Brightest Star* by Christie Matheson. Materials included copies of the selected book, a poster and bookmarks based on Every Child Ready to Read (ECRR) practices and the selected book, and an electronic version of a programming guide based on ECRR practices and the selected book.

The program also includes professional development on early literacy education practices for library staff serving children.

Library & Cultural Collaborations through Grants

The Library of Michigan provided support for the Michigan Activity Pass, a partnership between nearly all public library locations, including branches and 443 arts and cultural organizations throughout the state. The Library Network coordinates the program, which provides discounted or free admission to cultural attractions to library card holders at their local public libraries. In 2019, activities were available in all counties, providing residents with greatly expanded opportunities to explore and learn about their state. The program continues to add partners and locations.

Collaborative Library Services Grant

Library of Michigan supported six libraries in providing services or programs to underserved or underrepresented populations.

Dearborn Public Library is completing the final year in a three year project to bring materials to immigrant populations; Jackson District Library completed a two year project to bring services and materials to populations with dementia; Ypsilanti District Library is completing the final year of a three year project to encourage early literacy with low income families; and Grand Rapids Public Library completed a two year project to provide intensive entrepreneurship training to low income youth. Niles District Library is continuing a social work services program for rural public libraries. The project provides social work services and field instruction for social work interns at partner libraries in Berrien, Cass and Van Buren counties.



The Collaborative Library Services grant also supported Wayne State University's digital collections project. Wayne State University Libraries completed a digital collection creation project that included digitization, hosting, digital discovery, and curricular development components. The project involves working with documents from the Arab American National Museum, LGBT Detroit and the Housewives League of Detroit.

Public Library Services Grant

The Library of Michigan provided 91 small programming grants to public libraries. The grants allowed libraries to try out new programming ideas or make current programs more robust so that more people can participate. Small and rural libraries were given preference in the grant review process. Libraries requested funds for a range of technology focused programs, literacy focused programs, and children and youth focused programs. These included things like STEM and 3-D printing programs, ESL storytimes, assistive technologies, and collaborations such as having local teens spend time on Rabbit Island in Lake Superior as part of a place-based arts and ecology program.

Improving Services through Continuing Education

The Library of Michigan uses LSTA funding to provide or sponsor continuing education for librarians throughout the state. Libraries are able to improve and expand services available to Michigan residents by learning from expert presenters and colleagues. The continuing education program also allows public libraries, especially small and rural libraries, to receive their state certification, which is required for public libraries to receive state aid to public libraries funds. Highlights include:

Library of Michigan Hosted Events and Resources

Book Repair Workshops

LM staff provided a series of hands on book repair workshops for library staff.

Continuing Education Stipends

The Library of Michigan is continuing a program to support library staff attendance at state, regional and national conferences and workshops, allowing more staff to attend high quality training and bring that knowledge back to colleagues through articles and presentations.

Early Literacy Webinar Series with Jenifer Strauss

The Library of Michigan provided a 4-part webinar series on early literacy and the use of storytelling narrative in children's programming.

Online Training

The Library of Michigan provides access to WebJunction and United for Libraries. These are respectively, a national service providing webinars, videos and online resources on a range of library management, programming and technology issues and a national service providing training and materials for library trustees. This service is available to all library staff and trustees in Michigan 24/7.



RIPL Library Data Workshop

Michigan Regional Research Institute for Public Libraries (MiRIPL) – Staff from the Colorado State Library in cooperation with Library of Michigan staff provided a two-day hands-on workshop about data and libraries.

Public Library Financial Management Guide

In order to assist public libraries in dealing with fiscal issues, the Library of Michigan revised and updated the Public Library Financial Management Guide, which includes basic accounting, revenues, expenditures, budgeting, financial reporting, audits, and internal controls.

Partner Hosted Events and Resources

Community Engagement Training (with the Midwest Collaborative for Library Services)

Library staff have had training and ongoing coaching in learning to turn outward to their communities and learn how libraries can participate in and support local community goals.

MiALA Conference (with the Michigan Academic Library Association)

Academic librarians met for their May 2019 two-day conference. The conference included juried presentations as well as keynote speakers.

Next-Level Leadership for Small and Rural Libraries (with the University of Michigan)

The Library of Michigan has developed an intensive leadership training institute for small and rural libraries in collaboration with the University of Michigan School of Information. Using a cohort model, the University of Michigan is working with directors of 25 Class I through Class III public libraries to increase leadership skills across a range of topics.

Public Library Accessibility Workshop

The Library, Midwest Collaborative for Library Services, the Michigan Library Association, the Michigan Academic Library Association and the Cooperative Directors Association collaborated on a one-day event on accessibility in libraries.



Small Libraries Big Impact

The Library of Michigan provided support for a two-day conference for small and rural libraries hosted by six of Michigan's public library cooperatives. The conference focus was on library's place in the community.

Trustee Workshops (with Friends of Michigan Libraries)

The Library of Michigan sponsors occasional one day workshops for libraries and library trustees to provide training on current issues and programming and management topics.

Technology Support

E-Rate Support for Public Libraries

The Library of Michigan supports public library participation in the federal E-Rate program. Guidance is provided through E-Rate Central and the Library of Michigan collaboration with Michigan Department of Education staff.

Public Library Data Collection

The Library of Michigan uses LSTA funding to support the collection of data about public library services and the provision of state aid to public libraries. Through these activities, the library community can get a better understanding of local and regional library service trends and the Library of Michigan distributes state funds to local communities to provide increased services.

Programming and Professional Development Resources

In order to help and encourage libraries of all types to increase staff capacity and programming opportunities in their communities, the Library of Michigan has developed a Library Science and Programming Resource Collection in 2019. The collection includes a library science collection on a broad range of topics, Braille Enhanced StoryWalks® and programming kits.

The Library Science Collection is a circulating “Librarian’s Library” of professional library science books and materials. The collection serves all librarians and library types in Michigan. With the Braille Enhanced StoryWalks®, we provide the picture books and storywalk kits with Braille sheets for libraries to use as outdoor signs for families to learn to read on a walk. The programming kits are kits that include all the materials necessary for a particular activity or outreach program.



Technology Support for Rural Communities... the Ploud Collaborative

The Library of Michigan supports rural libraries and their communities through improved access to online resources. As part of that support, the Library of Michigan maintains the Ploud program, which helps small, rural libraries provide online information through easy to maintain websites. The program provides software for modern, robust library websites that are simple and easy to update for small libraries unable to develop websites on their own due to staff knowledge or budgetary limitations.

Within Michigan, the Library of Michigan trains librarians on how to use the software and provides hosting and programming development and a community calendar for participating libraries. As of September 2019, 105 communities have quality library websites, giving residents access to MeL materials and to information on local services. Rural area residents now have the same online library resources that residents in larger communities enjoy.



For questions or comments concerning this publication, please contact Karren Reish at [517-241-0021](tel:517-241-0021), or email reishk@michigan.gov.

Toll-free [1-877-479-0021](tel:1-877-479-0021)

MICHIGAN RESIDENTS SPEAK

We regularly receive comments from people about how LSTA funded projects impacted them, including professionals, library staff, and teachers. The following are a selection from the last year.

MeLCat

"A patron in our library yesterday, a Michigan resident, commented that she and her husband are considering moving to a different home, but will only move to another community if its library participates in MeLCat. Of course, these days most do, but she is keen to make sure of it before buying any house."

MeL

"I am re-entering the workforce and the LearningExpress Library resume builder enabled me to easily create a professional looking resume. The questions it asked and suggestions it offered gave me confidence that I was including all of the information that today's employers are looking for in a format that would put my skills and experience in their best light. I haven't had to create a resume in over ten years and LEL eliminated the stress from this portion of the job seeking process. Furthermore, I am visually impaired and I can use this program successfully with my Windows screen enlargement program."

"I can't tell the difference between real news and fake news and MeL is real."

"MeL is not just MeLCat; it's databases, teacher resources, library training resources, career resources, and all those other things. I appreciate that MeL is finding a way to teach people "how" to use all of MeL and to recognize its usefulness to ALL library types and sizes."

"I love the fact that I can link resources from Mel to my school website. I teach 4th grade and we teach a lot of informational reading and research. Teaching the students what credible sites are and what credible information is is very important. Introducing this site will be wonderful. I will specifically link Britannica School Elementary and the ebook k-8 collection."

Online Training

"Thanks to the Library of Michigan for our United for Libraries membership and access to training like today's "Equity, Diversity, Inclusion: What Library Trustees Need to Know." We've just a year into equity training ... and I really appreciated the reinforcement of the other skills I'm practicing. Thank you for making today's training available to Michigan libraries."



LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN

702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing MI 48915
www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan