Library Services & Technology Act

Michigan Report for 2017

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Library of Michigan

INSTITUTE *of*
Museum and **Library**
SERVICES

MICHIGAN
Department *of* **Education**

Information Partners for the 21st Century

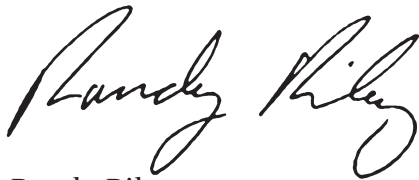April 2017

Members of Congress:

Your continued support for the Institute of Museum and Library Services Grants to States program is fundamental to providing quality information services to Michigan residents. The Library of Michigan and the Michigan library community have built statewide programs that have had a significant impact with these funds. We are proud of MeLCat, the statewide resource sharing program that loaned over one million items to library patrons last year alone. Public, academic and school libraries all participate together to provide this wealth of materials for their students and communities.

Library of Michigan use LSTA funds to provide resources to every community across the state. For instance, LSTA funds the majority of the Michigan eLibrary's (MeL) 40 databases and eBook content. These resources are irreplaceable for libraries and schools of all types and sizes to serve their students and patrons. Our public libraries collect resources and create programs for the many constituencies and needs in their communities, both rural and urban. Our school libraries curate materials and teach information literacy to students and teachers. Our academic libraries support research and develop collections for our college and university faculty and students. Together, the Library of Michigan and Michigan's libraries are working on regional and statewide partnerships and resources to improve our communities.

We appreciate your support for the people of Michigan through the funding of the Museum and Library Services Act. LSTA funds are vital to equitable, quality resources and services for your constituents. These resources are the foundation of many successful programs that are available to all Michigan's residents and many are building their future with them.

Thank you for your time and support.

Respectfully,

Randy Riley
State Librarian of Michigan

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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 and preserve Michigan publications, conduct reference and research, and support libraries statewide.

The Library of Michigan supports all Michigan communities and residents through the use of federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA). The programs and resources supported with these funds fulfill the Library of Michigan's mission and the federal LSTA goals. Michigan's LSTA program focuses on statewide services to provide a base level of access to information, and assistance and training for librarians throughout the state so all residents may use quality resources. This focus puts a premium on programs and resources that are available regardless of geographic area, age, or information need. The statewide projects are designed to be worthwhile for and available to individuals, public library users, K-12 students and teachers, higher education students and faculty, government officials and businesses. The Library of Michigan strives to support all Michigan residents with LSTA funding.

2017 LSTA OVERVIEW

In 2017, Michigan's $4,390,280 in LSTA funding supported resources and services for public, academic, K-12 and special libraries and the public. The majority of LSTA funds coming to Michigan supported the Michigan eLibrary "MeL" (http://mel.org), which includes:

➢ 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;
➢ Subject area and age specific gateways with recommended resources, including Jobs, Business, Kids, Teens, Government, Health, Legal and Books & Literacy;
➢ "Michigana," a collection of digitized primary historical resources on Michigan;
➢ 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 workshops and training; website support for small and rural libraries; website support for MeL; programming grants for public libraries; collaborative community services grants; and an evaluation of the Library of Michigan's LSTA funded services for the last five years.

These projects provide ready access for state residents to a wide range of information. 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 materials and shared print resources for a minimal cost. ■

2017 KEY FACTS ABOUT LSTA IN MICHIGAN

❖ A new early literacy program for children's librarians across the state was developed, Ready to Read Michigan, which further encourages use of the five elements of the nationally recognized early literacy program Every Child Ready to Read – Talking, Singing, Reading, Playing, Writing.

❖ Michigan residents borrowed 1,080,066 books, audiobooks, and other library materials through MeLCat. Local libraries saved over $37.8 million dollars by not buying these items.

❖ 460 libraries are MeLCat members; including 90% of public libraries, as well as academic, school and special libraries, giving much greater access to their patrons.

❖ A range of quality early literacy resources are available at no cost to parents, caregivers, libraries, schools and Great Start and Head Start communities through MeL.

❖ Job seekers and those practicing educational and occupational tests used the LearningExpress practice tests and courses 66,382 times at no cost to them.

❖ People searched MeL databases 29.9 million times and downloaded 24.1 million documents, which is more than two items for every person living in Michigan.

❖ Michigan small businesses are supported by MeL staff working with groups such as SCORE, Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs), SBA-Michigan and Library BizConnect and our suite of MeL business resources.

❖ Public libraries received $105,515 for quick summer program grants for technology training, children & teen programs, or literacy programs.

❖ Several thousand public, school and academic library staff received training on a wide range of programming, evaluation and management topics at minimal costs in 2017 through workshops, webinars and the conferences.

❖ Youth librarians across the state learned how to understand and work with teens in their youth programs, increasing the outreach and impact of their teen programming. ■

The LSTA Five-Year Plan for Michigan, October 2012 through September 2017 addresses the needs of Michigan residents for information and library services through three goals. These goals were determined through an evaluation of the previous Five-Year Plan and community needs assessments, which included input 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 resources and materials in various formats for lifelong learning.

Need: Users continue to need equitable access to materials, both print and digital, on a range of topics and at their point of need. Libraries need a consistent and stable source of materials to meet this need.
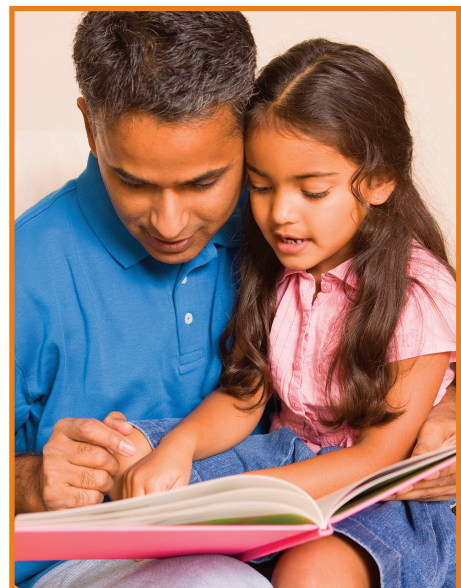
Goal 2: Michigan residents will have opportunities to gain new skills and improve skills to engage in the 21st century community and economy.

Need: Users need access to 21st century skills and training, especially in rural and underserved urban areas of the state, although this is an issue in all communities. Users need workforce development training, technology literacy education, support for improved reading literacy, and assistance with a range of social and government services. Libraries need professional development and training materials to meet these needs.

Goal 3: Michigan libraries will actively pursue partnerships and initiatives that support community development and engagement.

Need: Users need consistent and equitable services from libraries to assist them in lifelong learning and community engagement. Libraries need to be able to easily share best practices for services and for developing local partnerships to meet this need.

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 2012-2017 is a part of how the Michigan library community will continue to provide appropriate, quality services and programs to its patrons through 2017. ■

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) 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; free Michigan-focused Internet resources; 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 2017, people used the databases over 29.9 million times and downloaded 24.1 million documents and articles. This is more than three searches and nearly two documents per person living in Michigan.

MeL databases cost $1.5 million in federal funds and $1.5 million in state funds. If Michigan residents had paid for each article they downloaded in 2017, they would have paid over $150 million. If libraries and schools had purchased the suite of databases individually, the costs would have been many millions more. 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. State funds also support significant business and 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.

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 place in American history especially in topics such as the Civil War and the automotive, shipping and lumbering industries.

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

Gateways – A balanced collection of quality subscription eResources and librarian selected Internet sites that are Michigan-related or especially useful to Michigan residents. MeL's Business Gateway, which is newly redesigned, supports economic development and small businesses. Gateways also support children, teens and teachers and point to job, health, legal, literacy and government information.

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. ■

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 the library users. In 2017, 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 fact, in 2017 they did so over one million times or nearly 3,000 times per day. 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 nearly $38,800,000 worth of materials needed by their communities.

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.

In 2017, nine libraries joined the collaborative, thirteen libraries completed a systems migration, and we are providing in-depth support and training of continuing members. As of September 30, 2017, 460 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 Michigan Program

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. 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.

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

Ready to Read Michigan is a newly developed early literacy program for the Library of Michigan. This annual statewide literacy program promotes library support of early literacy skills for young children, parents and caregivers.

The program includes a custom early literacy kit based on a new book each year, which is distributed to public libraries. Author events at public libraries and schools is an integral part of the promotion and outreach. LSTA funds helped support this program. The program is embedded in a suite of training opportunities on early literacy skill building for children's librarians. ■

Library and Cultural Collaborations

The Michigan Activity Pass is a partnership between 638 public library locations and 441 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 2017, 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. The Library of Michigan supported the program to provide these experiences statewide.

The Library of Michigan also supported Wayne State University in a project to advance Michigan's digital collections, serving as a catalyzing set of activities in three areas: digital collection creation and hosting, digital discovery, and curricular development. The project is working with documents from the Arab American National Museum, LGBT Detroit and the Housewives League of Detroit. ■

Training and Technology to Improve Services for Michigan Residents

Conferences & Training

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
Youth and Children's Library Training

Teen programming workshops and Every Child Ready to Read early literacy workshops, webinars and newsletters provided training and materials to children and youth librarians around the state to learn about new skills and new programming ideas.

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.

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.

PLA Project Outcome

The Library of Michigan provided a series of workshops statewide on developing and using outcome measures to evaluate library services and programs. The training focused on the Public Library Association's national Project Outcome measures and materials.

Partner Hosted Events and Resources

Harwood Community 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.

Michigan Library Association Conference (with the Michigan Library Association)

MLA Annual Conference is a three-day conference for public, academic and school librarians that provides training on a range of current programs and activities in libraries around the state.

MI-ALA Conference (with the Michigan Academic Library Association)

Academic librarians met for an inaugural two-day conference on the theme of "Shaping Our Visions: New Possibilities for Academic Libraries in Michigan."

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

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.

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 for participating libraries. As of September 2017, 98 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, or email reishk@michigan.gov.

Toll-free 1-877-479-0021

We regularly receive comments about the impact of these program for people, including professionals, businesses, and teachers, among many others. The following are a selection from the last year.

"Your service is such a lifesaver! I am a single mom who just started grad school. I make too much to qualify for grants and can't afford to pay cash for everything. I have saved several hundred dollars just in my first semester by borrowing my textbooks through MeLCat. Thank you, thank you, thank you!"

"The staff helped me so much during my college nursing program. They made great efforts to help get the very important extra resources and books to help me study. I am now an official RN and know that without their help and their ability to receive books from outside sources, I would have had an almost impossible time obtaining my High Honors GPA and passing my state NCLEX. Thank you staff for all your support and work!"

"I hate to envision a world without MeL... you are the cornerstone of our research here at BHS"

"Just wanted to say how awesome this is! It is a great tool for parents, teachers, and media specialists, and serves as a great training tool for public libraries. Thanks so much for all you and your team do to make our lives easier!"