



LSTA Funds in Michigan Serving All Michigan Residents

Federal FY 2014 (10/1/2013 – 9/30/2015)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) provides funds through the Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) to the states. In Michigan, the Library of Michigan receives the funds to improve library services to state residents. The Library of Michigan funds projects based on how well they match the goals of the LSTA legislation and the goals of Michigan's IMLS approved five-year plan. The LSTA legislation and the current Five-Year Plan are at 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 2014 allotment was \$4,328,074. The premier program is the Michigan eLibrary (MeL), a virtual library available at www.mel.org, anytime, anywhere to all Michigan residents.

Michigan eLibrary (MeL)

- **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– Hundreds of thousands of subscription magazine and newspaper articles, reference book articles, art images, eBooks, historical documents and images, and other full-text materials.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, for example, supports economic development and small businesses. The Kids and Teen gateways are newly redesigned.
- **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. The Job & Career Accelerator section offers workforce skills building— such as career planning, job search, resume writing and interviewing.

Other Major Statewide Programs

- **Support for Early 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. Support for the Michigan Reads! statewide early literacy program also helped provide quality program kit to approximately 600,000 students and young children, with a kit based on Laurie Keller's *Do Unto Otters*.
- **Ploud** – Michigan participates in this nation-wide collaborative to provide state-of-the-art Web sites for public libraries, giving their communities online access to statewide resources. At the end of state FY 2015 the project served 122 small and rural communities.
- **E-rate training and support** – Michigan libraries have training and assistance for E-rate, the federal program that provides for reduced cost Internet and telecommunications connectivity. Over \$1 million in federal support was committed to Michigan libraries from July 2014 - June 2015.
- **Support for Improved Services through Continuing Education for Librarians** – LSTA funds sponsored workshops and training and online continuing education resources for librarians and trustees throughout the state, giving library staff the opportunity to learn new techniques and methods to reach underserved residents.

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.

What is the impact on library users in Michigan?

LSTA funding has a profound impact on improving outcomes in Michigan for students, professionals and lifelong learners as the comments the Library of Michigan receives attest to.

“I have used the MelCat system in many ways... I have requested materials that have helped me get more out of my online, college level classes about fundraising and grant writing in particular... Additionally I have used the system to become and remain involved in community activities... This service is one that sets Michigan apart from all the other states in which I have lived”

“I use MeL and MeLCat in my work as a school principal to read professional journals online and request specific books from libraries across the state. These services have allowed our school to cancel traditional print subscriptions to almost every journal. I estimate this saves us about \$1,000 per year- and we are still getting the same benefits (and more!)

But even more, I use MeL and MeLCat at home. My kids and I love to read and listen to BookFlix and other ebooks. I also regularly request books from other libraries throughout the state. It is amazing that public and private universities and city/township libraries have cooperated in this way. MeL and MeLCat are a great example of the good that can happen when we work together and organize our resources! Thanks for all you do to enrich my life - at school and at home!”

“I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciate the Learning Express Library. The computer training videos were exceptional and I often referred individuals who needed to update their computer skills to the site. This helps build confidence and employment skills for job seekers.”