



**LSTA Funds in Michigan
Providing Access to Information to All Michigan Residents**

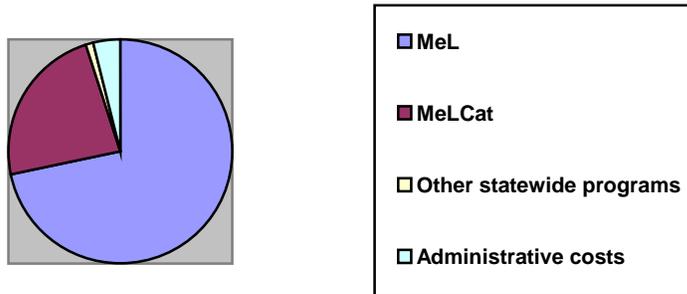
Federal Fiscal Year 2010 (10/1/2009 – 9/30/2011)

The Library of Michigan manages federal funds for libraries in Michigan. The Institute of Museum and Library Services provides the funds through the Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA). The Library of Michigan funds projects based on how well they match the goals of Michigan’s LSTA approved five-year plan. The LSTA legislation and the five-year plan are at www.michigan.gov/lsta.

How are LSTA funds used?

Currently, Michigan uses LSTA funds primarily for statewide programs with some spending on competitive subgrants. The federal fiscal year 2010 allotment was \$5,208,238. The premier program is the Michigan eLibrary (MeL), a virtual library available at www.mel.org, anytime, anywhere to all Michigan residents.

Federal FY 2010 LSTA Funds



Michigan eLibrary (MeL)

- **MeL Databases** – Subscription resources, including hundreds of thousands of magazine and newspaper articles, reference book articles, primary historical documents and images, curriculum materials, etc. In state FY 2011, Michigan residents searched MeL databases 35.6 million times and downloaded over 11.8 million articles. The database contracts cost \$3.7 million. If libraries had purchased these subscriptions individually, the cost would have been over \$72 million. If people had paid for each article individually, the cost would have been nearly \$177 million.

- **MeLCat** – An innovative statewide library catalog and resource-sharing network. By the end of state FY 2011, there were 330 public, 48 academic, 27 K-12, and 9 special libraries members. Michigan residents received 955,695 items, delivered at no charge to the patron in three to five days. Libraries saved \$47.8 million dollars through sharing these materials.
- **MeL Michigana** – Digitized local historical resources from Michigan libraries and historical centers. Includes family papers, photos, diaries, obituaries, newspapers and other local documents.
- **MeL eBooks** – A collection of over 24,000 non-fiction and reference electronic books.
- **MeL Gateways** – A balanced collection of quality Internet sites selected by librarians that are Michigan-related or particularly useful to Michigan residents combined with suggested database and MeLCat searches.
- **MeL Tests and Tutorials** – Online tests, including college, civil service, vocational and professional exams, K-12 study guides and job seeking resources, such as resume writing and interview skills.
- **Michigan Online Resources for Educators (M.O.R.E.)** – A portal with over 60,000 quality educational web sites tied to the state's curriculum standards and professional development needs.

Other Major Statewide Programs

- **Support for the Collaborative Summer Reading** – 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. In 2011, 45% of libraries sent us statistics and in just those libraries, 86,202 children under 12 and 15,099 teens participated in this literacy improving program.
- **Plinkit** – Michigan participates in this nation-wide collaborative to provide state-of-the-art Web sites for public libraries at no charge to the libraries, giving their communities online access to statewide resources. The project includes training on an easy-to-use interface for non-technical staff, software support and hosting. At the end of state FY 2011 the project served 77 small and rural communities.
- **E-rate training and support** – Michigan libraries have access to annual training and personalized assistance to participate in E-rate, the federal program that provides for reduced cost Internet and telecommunications connectivity. Over \$2.2 M in federal support was committed to Michigan libraries from June 2010 to June 2011.
- **Support for Improved Services through Continuing Education for Librarians** – LSTA funds sponsored workshops for librarians 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.

The Impact of LSTA programs on Michigan Residents

➤ Impact for entrepreneurs:

A librarian commented “This morning a young lady came in and needed books about small business planning. We don't have updated references for this, but the MeL Database has one entire section on Small Business Resource Center. She was amazed to see that she could do her entire business plan right from this MeL site!! They [the databases] are extremely helpful.”

➤ Impact for rural residents:

“I love the interlibrary loan system. It makes me feel like the library really cares that I get the books I'm looking for not just whatever happens to be available.”

➤ Impact for minority users:

"I live in a small town, there's really not a lot of diversity. I am a woman of multicultural ethnicity. Mel has allowed me to enjoy a range of work that is not necessarily in my small town library. I'm very happy with the service. I like most that I can access MeL from anywhere."

➤ **Impact for teachers and students:**

"Fact: In 2011, I spent \$680.05 on books for graduate school. Fact: In addition to purchasing books, I borrowed MANY books from my local libraries and interloaned what they didn't have in their collections. If I were to "purchase" those books, I would've spent well over \$1,200 on books. A big thank you ..."

"Working at a Community College, we occasionally have students come in who have been out of school for many years. I had such a student come in the first week of the school year who had been out of school for 10 years. He had taken our academic placement test and scored at a low level in Math. He mentioned that he used to be good at Math, but had lost some of his knowledge over the years. Since it was too late to enroll in the Fall Semester, I mentioned that it might be a good idea to spend the semester practicing Math on the Learning Express Library on the Michigan eLibrary website and then to re-take the placement test. He spent a few hours every week practicing and came back right before the winter semester to retake the placement test. He jumped to Intermediate Algebra! The Learning Express Library on MeL is very easy to use. It helped him not only to remember some of the math formulas from before, but even helped him to exceed his previous knowledge. MeL.org is a great website, and I highly recommend it to many of my students."