LSTA Funds in Michigan
Providing Access to Information to All Michigan Residents
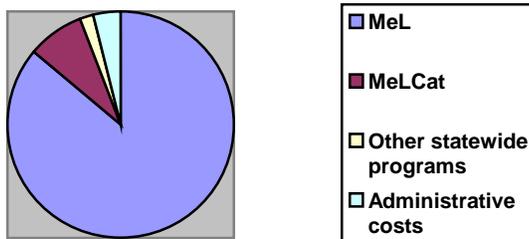
Federal FY 2008 (10/1/2007 – 9/30/2009)

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 approved five-year plan for LSTA. The LSTA Act 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 FY 2008 allotment is $4,941,233. The premier program is the Michigan eLibrary (MeL), a virtual library available at www.mel.org, anytime, anywhere to all Michigan residents.

Federal FY 2008 LSTA Funds

- MeL
- MeLCat
- Other statewide programs
- Administrative costs

MeL

➢ **MeL Databases** – Subscription resources, including hundreds of thousands of magazine and newspaper articles, reference book articles, art images, primary historical documents and images, curriculum materials, etc.

In FY 2008, Michigan residents performed over 40 million searches and downloaded over 28.3 million articles. The database contracts cost $3.8 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 approximately $205 million.

➤ **MeLCat –** An innovative statewide library catalog, delivery service and resource-sharing network. By the end of FY 2009, there were 285 public, 40 academic, 23 K-12, 9 combined and 6 special libraries members. Michigan residents received 770,909 items, delivered in an average of three to five days at no charge. Libraries saved $39.7 million dollars through sharing these materials.

➤ **MeL Michigana** – Digitized local historical resources from Michigan libraries and historical centers, including family papers, photographs, diaries, obituaries, newspapers and other local documents.

➤ **MeL eBooks** – A collection of over 24,000 current non-fiction and reference electronic books.

➤ **MeL Featured Resources** – A balanced collection of quality Internet sites selected by librarians that are Michigan-related or particularly useful to Michigan residents.

➤ **MeL Tests and Tutorials** – Online tests, including college entrance, civil service, vocational and professional exams, K-12 study guides and job seeking resources.

➤ **Michigan Online Resources for Educators (MORE)** – 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, comprehensive summer reading manuals from the Collaborative Summer Library Program are provided to public libraries, saving the libraries both staff time and money. In 2009, this collaboration reached 83,352 children under 12 and 19,641 teens. The children and teens participated in 5,370 programs and logged 1,289,317 hours of reading.

➤ **Support for Services for the Blind & Physically Handicapped (SBPH)** – LSTA funds upgrades to the SBPH library catalog, allowing easier and faster access to materials and facilitating cooperation between the state and regional SBPH libraries.

➤ **Plinkit** – Michigan has joined this nation-wide collaborative to provide state-of-the-art Web sites for public libraries at no charge to the libraries. The project includes software support and hosting. The goal is to have at least 100 small and rural libraries join within the next 3 years.

➤ **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. Participating libraries in the last 3 years saved over $6 million.

➢ **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.

Competitive Subgrants – the Modeling the Future (MTF) program

In years that funding is available, the MTF program funds innovative programs that offer new services or new ways to provide a service. The program is open to all types of libraries and requires libraries that received awards to write a project manual for other libraries to use to implement the program locally. In federal FY 2009, Peter White Public Library, Riverview Public Library and Superiorland Library Cooperative will be the recipients. More information is at www.michigan.gov/lsta.

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 Michigan Residents Think about LSTA programs

➢ I just learned about your site at the "Creating Entrepreneurial Communities" conference this past Wednesday. I am IN LOVE! Thankyouthankyouthankyou! I will spread the gospel – you guys ROCK! -- P.M., Hillsdale

➢ I work primarily with young adults and dislocated workers [who are] retraining for new jobs and searching for a career to pursue. MeL has been a real bonus because it offers courses and eBooks in workplace skills and career tools. Practice tests for several career fields are offered. Helpful information on resume writing and interviewing has been very helpful to our students. MeL is a great resource. It's useful in the classroom as well as at home. It has helped our program save

money and become more efficient. -- D.O'B., Greenville

- It [MeL.org] is a tremendous resource for teachers (home or public), students and parents. Coordinating them by subject in mel.org (and MORE) saves incredible amounts of time compared to 'surfing' the web and stumbling through the junk and blogs. I love it and have several education forums in Michigan that I will pass it along to! -- K.C., Pleasant Lake

- I'm just grateful for such an awesome system. I've lived all over the mid west and MeLCat is the easiest, best inter-library loan system I've ever used…MeLCat lets us access resources at other Michigan libraries, cutting down on making our local dollars go even farther. -- A.S., Marquette

- We are huge supporters and promoters of MEL. I have faith that MEL will continue indefinitely, especially as more students grow up depending upon its wide array of resources. -- S. Mc., E. Grand Rapids.