LSTA Funds in Michigan
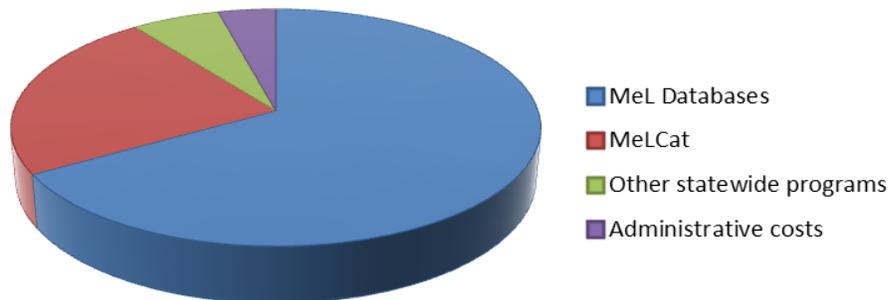**Assisting All Michigan Residents**

Federal Fiscal Year 2012 (10/1/2011 – 9/30/2013)

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) provides funds through the Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) to the state. In Michigan, the Library of Michigan receives the funds for the provision of improved library services to state residents. The Library of Michigan funds projects based on how well they match 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 2012 allotment was $4,504,022. The premier program is the Michigan eLibrary (MeL), a virtual library available at www.mel.org, anytime, anywhere to all Michigan residents.

Federal FY 2012 LSTA Funds

- MeL Databases
- MeLCat
- Other statewide programs
- Administrative costs

Michigan eLibrary (MeL)

➢ **MeL Databases** – Hundreds of thousands of subscription magazine and newspaper articles, reference book articles, art images, historical documents and images, curriculum materials and other full-text materials. Content ranges from the K-12 level to professional and research levels in science, medicine, education, technology,

humanities, arts, social sciences, law and genealogy. Spanish language materials are available, especially for K-12 students.

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

➢ **MeL 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.

➢ **MeL 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.

➢ **MeL Gateways** – A balanced collection of quality, librarian selected Internet sites that are Michigan-related or particularly useful to Michigan residents.

➢ **MeL Tests, Tutorials & Workforce Development** – A comprehensive, interactive online learning platform of occupational, licensing and academic practice tests and tutorials for K-16 and job seekers, from GED assistance to the GRE. The Job & Career Accelerator section covers a broad area of workforce skills building.

➢ **Michigan Online Resources for Educators (M.O.R.E.)** – A portal to tens of thousands of quality educational materials that are web-based and aligned with the state's current curriculum standards including the national Common Core state standards. This portal helps K-12 teachers and homeschoolers find the right materials for their students quickly and easily.

Other Major Statewide Programs

➢ **Support for the Children's 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. In studies, children who participate in summer reading maintain or increase their reading levels throughout the summer. Support for the Michigan Reads! statewide early literacy program also helped provide quality materials and activities to approximately 600,000 students and young children.

➢ **Plinkit** – 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. The project includes training for non-technical staff, software support and hosting. At the end of state FY 2013 the project served 122 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 $2.8 M in federal support was committed to Michigan libraries from July 2012 to June 2013.

➢ **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, with a focus on workforce development services and services to children and teens.

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 and the Library of Michigan receives many comments about the services provided.

➢ A library user sent us this comment about MeLCat. "The fact that I can be sitting at my computer, up past my bedtime … and browsing the entire catalog of all libraries in the state? AND IT'S FREE? I'm still not quite sure how this is legal."

➢ A librarian from Pickford Community Library told us, "These services provide our 'window on the world' and make it possible for us to bring amazing educational opportunities into our community. Our patrons have been resonating to this, and library is growing by leaps and bounds. Our two year old library is beginning to flourish on so many levels and the opportunities provided by the Michigan eLibrary are important components."

➢ Finally, an interpreter for a deaf student shared this comment with us. "Yesterday I was interpreting for Parent Teacher Conferences and had the opportunity to share about MeL.org! The parents as well as the teachers were so grateful to hear. Especially since it is free!"