LSTA Funds in Michigan
Assisting All Michigan Residents

Federal FY 2013 (10/1/2012 – 9/30/2014)

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 to improve 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 2013 allotment was $4,251,300. 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– Hundreds of thousands of subscription magazine and newspaper articles, reference book articles, art images, eBooks, historical documents and images, curriculum materials and other full-text materials.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.

- **Michigan Online Resources for Educators (M.O.R.E.)** – A portal to tens of thousands of quality online educational materials aligned with Michigan and national academic curriculum standards. This portal helps K-12 teachers, librarians and homeschoolers find the right materials for their students quickly and easily, so they can focus their time on teaching.

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.

- **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. At the end of state FY 2014 the project served 120 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 $2.9 M in federal support was committed to Michigan libraries from July 2013 - June 2014.

- **Support for Improved Services through Continuing Education for Librarians** – LSTA funds sponsored workshops and training 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.

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.

"I am so grateful for a system like MELCAT for several reasons. Firstly, I have saved hundreds upon hundreds of dollars by checking out textbooks for my college classes from the MELCAT catalogue, which is a relief beyond words considering how expensive tuition is today. Secondly, I have been able to find so many obscure musical CDs, movies, research books, and more in the catalogue that I couldn't find anywhere else, all at no additional expense to myself. I love that so much is available to me from all over the state and these opportunities from inter-library lending are extremely important to me and I use them on a regular basis! Thank you for providing such a wonderful service to Michigan!"

"I am the Director of a small, rural public library in the thumb area of Michigan. I recently gave a workshop on the new MeL business databases … The small business owners (and a non-profit institution manager) in attendance were all amazed at the power of these new databases … The business owners noted that the information provided through these databases is something they previously would have had to spend quite a bit of money to acquire, and many of them just did not have that level of financial resources. They were delighted … Thank you!"

"After attending the information session on MeL & Early Literacy in August, the importance of School Library Media Specialists was definitely reiterated to me as a teacher. The resources available were explained in detail and are amazing! I am going back to my school (super excited!) and sharing with the other teachers what I learned, but not in depth (there is not time available). It is so sad that most schools do not have librarians - this was a wonderful example at how having one is so valuable: sharing resources with teachers and teaching students how to use those resources. MeL.org continues to impress! I hope there are more sessions like this (free!) available to teachers about the wonderful resources the State of Michigan provides!!"