

The Michigan Library Association supports a strong, vibrant state library, which is essential to developing statewide library services and maintaining special collections for Michigan's libraries and citizens. Especially in a world of electronically stored and shared information resources, it is most cost and service effective to coordinate many activities at the state level. MLA will continue active support of the Library of Michigan including representation on the LM Board of Trustees.

Library of Michigan

Since territorial days in 1828, the Library of Michigan has served as the state library and as such:

- Provides reference service to individuals in all branches of state government -- the legislative, executive and judicial, -- to librarians, and to the general public
 - In a twelve-month period, staff responded to more than 100,000 information requests.
 - Beginning in January 2002, the Library of Michigan introduced Live Reference via the Internet, called [Ask us LIVE!](#) This service is a live question and answer session with a librarian.

- Provides a core set of resources online to all libraries and Michigan residents
 - MEL (<http://mel.org/databasesubjects.html>) includes magazine articles and e-books worth approximately \$4 million. In a twelve-month period, more than 18 million pieces of information were retrieved through this service.

- Houses collections which are unique and are of significant interest to researchers and residents in Michigan and beyond
 - The Abrams Foundation Historical Collection is one of the 10 largest genealogy collections in the country
 - The Library of Michigan makes its resources available through the Internet. The 1870 Census Records located at http://envoy.libraryofmichigan.org/1870_census was visited by more than 108,000 people in the first three months it was offered
 - The Michigan Collection, including the Michigan Documents Collection, holds 75,431 titles, many of which are available only at the Library of Michigan
 - The Rare Book Collection includes 8,700 titles. In October 2003, the Martha W. Griffiths Michigan Rare Book Room (4th floor) opened to the public. Two exhibits from this collection are
 - [Children's Book Exhibit](#)
 - [Orange Judd Bindings Exhibit](#)

- Provides free reading materials to Michigan residents who cannot see or read standard print due to a visual or physical disability
 - The Library of Michigan is one of two regionals serving the state's residents;
 - An average of 1,200 books on cassette circulate per day from the Library of Michigan;
 - More than 550 descriptive videos from the Library's collection circulate, allowing individuals to "hear" the scenery and silent movements in movies so they may enjoy "watching" videos without missing crucial parts.
- Functions as Michigan's "librarians' library" by providing reference service, continuing education and consultation to librarians and library trustees
- Serves as a resource to the residents of Michigan by providing state and federal documents, in print format and online, and federal and legal resources through the Law Library
 - The Law Library provides guidance to individuals who come to the library as well as online guidance for those who are attempting to do research on their own. Guides may be found at http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17449_18639_18656---,00.html
- Distributes state aid to public libraries and federal funds provided through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

Michigan Library Association
Public Policy Committee
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