



MIDWEST
COLLABORATIVE
for LIBRARY
SERVICES

2023

Annual Report

mcls.org 800-530-9019



Executive Director's Message

As I reflect on a challenging 2023 for libraries and the many organizations that serve them, some things have changed, and some remain the same. Libraries continue doing everything they can to support their communities. We at MCLS continue striving to do all we can to support libraries. Our dedicated staff of 25 work hard every day to help libraries in Indiana, Michigan, and elsewhere provide access to trustworthy information that people need to grow and thrive. MCLS also helps libraries collaborate to share a wide array of other resources that enrich lives. I see MCLS as “connective infrastructure” for libraries in a variety of ways. As a future-focused organization, we look to build connections forward by fostering greater collaboration, engagement, learning, and innovation for libraries along with many others across the library ecosystem. We aim to help libraries and the people they serve grow and thrive at scale, taking ideas and innovation from one library to many.

This year, I remain thankful for all of the great work our staff have done to support the work libraries do. I also thank our member community, including those who represent academic, public, school, special, and state libraries as members of the MCLS Board of Directors. In our Board's words, “MCLS exists so that libraries of all sizes and types are community-responsive leaders who embrace the challenges of contemporary library practice, develop innovative solutions, foster robust collaborations, and facilitate transformative learning.” Delivering on our Board's vision remains our challenge and privilege every day, and engaging with and learning from our member libraries are critical to that. I hope you'll engage with us as we finish the work we began in 2023 toward MCLS's strategic plan. As always, we want to know your hopes for the future, and how MCLS may play a part in helping make your desired future a reality.



Scott Garrison
Executive Director

About MCLS

Mission:

To facilitate sharing resources and collaborate with other organizations to benefit Indiana and Michigan libraries.

MCLS promotes:

- Sharing best practices
- Networking and collegiality
- Building a strong library community



We help libraries do more together than they can individually. We also support libraries in meeting current expectations and building positive futures.

- MCLS exists so that libraries of all sizes and types are community-responsive leaders who embrace the challenges of contemporary library practice, develop innovative solutions, foster robust collaborations, and facilitate transformative learning.
- We provide ways libraries can capitalize on the power of working together for physical resource sharing, group licensing, joint collections decisions, and more.
- MCLS offers supplies, software, training, and other means that allow libraries to provide and improve current services. In doing so, MCLS also provides libraries economies of scale and more for their money, more efficiently than they can achieve on their own.

MCLS provides key infrastructure and/or staffing for the following projects and initiatives:

Regional

- Linked Data User Group
- Michigan Academic Library Association (MiALA)
- Michigan Digital Preservation Network (MDPN)
- Michigan eLibrary Catalog (MeLCat)
- Michigan eLibrary (MeL) eResources
- Michigan Shared Print Initiative (MI-SPI)
- Regional Interlibrary Delivery Service (RIDES)
- TALK: Text and Learn for Kindergarten

National

Partnership for Shared Book Collections

Board of Directors

Board composition: 16 members

- 10 members by library type: academic, public, research, school, and special (1 each per type from Indiana and Michigan)
- 4 members At-Large (2 each from Indiana and Michigan)
- Indiana State Librarian (Ex-officio and voting)
- Michigan State Librarian (Ex-officio and voting)

President's Message

As 2023 Board President, I want to thank Scott Garrison and the entire MCLS staff for all the work that they do on behalf of Indiana and Michigan libraries. Over the past 12 months, 415 libraries purchased 2,135 subscriptions through MCLS (449 different products from 61 vendors). The MeLCat lending system sent 1,026,739 items to library users across Michigan. MCLS consulting services facilitated the creation of strategic plans for 6 different libraries in both Indiana and Michigan, and added 11 new training workshops. MCLS provides key infrastructure for the Michigan Shared Print Initiative, and the Michigan Digital Preservation Network, and support for membership in the Open Education Network. And this is a small sample of the work that MCLS does on behalf of our libraries each year.

This year, MCLS developed and delivered wellbeing workshops to support librarians who are struggling with contentious issues in their communities, and co-sponsored three programs that offered libraries advice on how to respond to misinformation, book bans, and intellectual freedom.

MCLS has recently begun a strategic planning process with the guidance of Spartina Consulting. Board Members have already participated in brainstorming with an eye toward new ways of making MCLS, and all of our libraries, as successful as possible. In the upcoming months, all MCLS members will be engaged in this process and I encourage you to think about ways that MCLS can assist you and your communities as we move forward with this process.

Arlene Weismantel
2023 President, MCLS Board of Directors

2023 Officers

President: Arlene Weismantel
Vice President: Polly Boruff-Jones
Secretary: Trista Smith
Treasurer: Lisa Waskin

2023 Board of Directors

Kate Pohjola Andrade
Woodlands Library Cooperative
At-Large Representative (MI)

Polly Boruff-Jones
Oakland University
At-Large Representative (MI)

Lisa Brakel
Airport Community Schools
School Library Representative (MI)

Marion Frank-Wilson
Indiana University Bloomington
Research Library Representative (IN)

Portia Kapraun
Delphi Public Library
Public Library Representative (IN)

Kandra Lake
North Central Michigan College
Academic Library Representative (MI)

Elizabeth Martin
Corewell Health
Special Library Representative (MI)

Stephen Patton
Indiana State University
At-Large Representative (IN)

Randy Riley
Library of Michigan (Permanent seat)

Matthew Shaw
Ball State University
Academic Library Representative (IN)

Raenell Smith
Clark-Pleasant Community School Corporation
School Library Representative (IN)

Trista Smith
Newburgh Chandler Public Library
At-Large Representative (IN)

Jake Speer
Indiana State Library (Permanent seat)

Brenna Tuite
Franciscan Health Lafayette
Special Library Representative (IN)

Lisa Waskin
Superior District Library
Public Library Representative (MI)

Arlene Weismantel
Michigan State University
Research Library Representative (MI)

2023 Spotlight accomplishments



MDPN
MICHIGAN DIGITAL
PRESERVATION
NETWORK



INSTITUTE of
Museum and Library
SERVICES



TALK
Text And Learn for Kindergarten



Fostering major collaborations:

Our work continues to transition the Every Child Ready to Read-inspired TALK system from an IMLS grant-funded project for Indiana and Michigan to a national MCLS service by summer 2024.

Engagement, Consulting, and Training (ECT) staff developed and delivered workshops and conference presentations on wellbeing and training in resilience in the workplace. This year, staff led professional development workshops for 13 libraries (8 in Indiana and 5 in Michigan) on a variety of current topics including wellbeing, essential workplace skills, customer service, community engagement, and leadership/management.

Shared Library Systems (SLS) staff continue to provide implementation, training, and support services for the Michigan eLibrary Catalog (MeLCat) and the MeL eResources, in close collaboration with the Library of Michigan (LM). 436 libraries serving over 10 million Michigan citizens currently participate in MeLCat, including two new libraries who joined in summer 2023 (North Central Michigan College and St. Clair County Community College).

MCLS continues to house and serve as fiscal agent for the Michigan Digital Preservation Network. MDPN Coordinator Chelsea Denault continues building and maintaining valuable relationships and recognition for MDPN in the broader digital preservation community statewide, nationally, and internationally as MDPN proceeds toward becoming the world's first LOCKSS 2.0 network.

Winning and lending support and leading innovation:

MCLS co-sponsored three programs in early 2023 that offered libraries advice for how to consider misinformation/disinformation (presented by Kristin Fontichiaro, UM-Ann Arbor School of Information), book bans, intellectual freedom, and the freedom to read (presented by Dr. Emily Knox, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign School of Information Sciences, and author of *Book Banning in 21st Century America*).

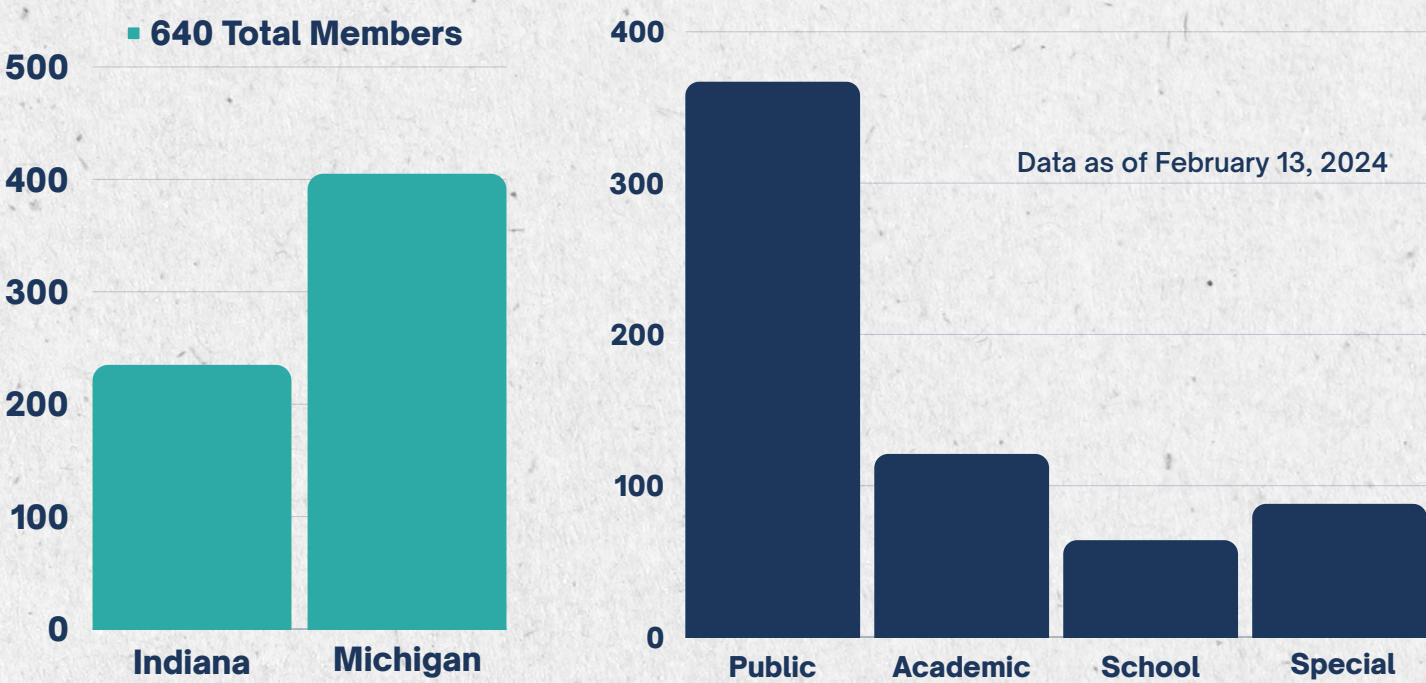
Over the past 12 months, 415 libraries purchased 2,135 subscriptions through MCLS (449 different products from 61 vendors).

MCLS MeLCat staff helped libraries with a multitude of MeLCat questions with were opened by library staff. MCLS MeLCat staff also reached more than 300 library staff through more than 45 MeLCat-related trainings.

Our two MeL Engagement Specialists continue promoting MeL eResources to their respective audiences. Ann Kaskinen and Laura Warren-Gross offer in-person and online eResource training statewide and wrote 21 MeL Minute emails more than monthly on ways libraries can use MeL in their daily work. They also wrote over 430 social media posts offering tips and tricks and promoting specific MeL eResource content.

Member snapshot

As a non-profit library collaborative, MCLS is a member-owned and governed organization.



Fiscal data

	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023
Total assets	\$15,149,263	\$17,419,233	\$16,242,908
Liabilities and net assets	\$15,149,263	\$17,419,233	\$16,242,908
Total revenue	\$26,911,021	\$25,393,642	\$26,814,051
Total expense	\$25,719,951	\$26,132,218	\$27,012,895
Net assets	\$10,581,437	\$9,842,861	\$9,644,017
Change in net assets	+\$1,191,070	-\$738,576	-\$198,884

Average change in net assets FY2021-FY2023: **+\$84,550**

Contact us



MIDWEST COLLABORATIVE
for **LIBRARY SERVICES**
Building better libraries

mcls.org

800-530-9019



All Contacts

Accounting

accounting@mcls.org
800-530-9019

Consulting Services

engagement@mcls.org
517-939-1383

Group Purchasing

services@mcls.org
517-939-1382

Michigan Digital Preservation Network

denaultc@mcls.org
517-325-0826
mipres.org

MeL eResources

melerhelp@mcls.org
517-939-1384

MeLCat

melcathelp@mcls.org
517-939-1385

Membership

membership@mcls.org
517-939-1388

TALK: Text and Learn for Kindergarten

talkhelp@mcls.org
517-237-3578
textandlearn.org

RIDES

mcls.org/rideshelp
517-939-1385

Training

training@mcls.org
517-220-9950

Key partners



MCLS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is owned and governed by its members. We focus on serving all libraries in Indiana and Michigan, and also work nationally and internationally.