WALL OF SHAME
2020
The year we all learned how to wash our hands, wear a mask, and quarantine.
Per Executive Order from the Governor all Michigan libraries closed on March 16.

In June libraries slowly began reopening.

Materials returned to closed libraries were sent to MCLS for storage. We got hundreds of totes and boxes.

We are still getting totes and boxes of materials.
Sorting all of the materials gave me a unique opportunity to get a closer look at what is being sent in RIDES...
...and it wasn’t pretty.
The following photos are selected examples that have passed through my hands since June. I didn’t have time to take pictures of everything!

Folks that have been around for a while will recognize that these issues have been going on for years.

I have tried to disguise identifying information.
Boxes MUST fit inside a green RIDES tote.

Remove or mark out old labels.
Please consider the folks opening your packages.
For example, it was a real puzzle trying to figure out how to open this package.
Envelopes that are more tape than envelope should be cleaned up or discarded. It is tedious to try and open these relics.
Cut off staples and excess tape.
Do not use fiber filled bags.
Too many labels slows down sorting.
Remove old labels or mark out.
Do not use cloth bags to transport RIDES materials.
We all love recycling those Amazon Prime and UPS bags, but there is way too much going on with this bag. It slows down RIDES sorting.
Do not send Pack library items unpackaged.
If you run out of envelopes, your library is responsible for getting more.
A very OLD label, taped to the book.
Make labels using the current RIDES label maker.
NEVER attach ANYTHING to a book that doesn’t belong to your library.
Labels taped to books is very common.

Do not attach ANYTHING to someone else’s item.

EVER.
The sender made their own label, probably because the library wasn’t on the RIDES label maker.

The library was closed.
Always package returns to a Pack library.
A limit of two books may be rubber banded together. A bundle like this is extremely hard to handle. Bands are likely to break, and then things go missing.
This item was labeled using a very old label for a library that was open, and then sent to MCLS?
Do not use old food boxes to send materials. Seriously.
Use appropriate size rubber bands, or ship in an envelope. This example was actually sent to me just today!
OK, I get that this may have been done by a patron, but it is still the borrowing library’s responsibility.
Most participants follow the procedures, but those who don’t slow down the process for others.

- Please be considerate of other libraries. Folks don’t have time to struggle with unpacking materials, or to figure things out.
- Ease up with the tape!
- Clearly identify/property stamp your materials. If you are an Academic library – use your institution name on your identifiers rather than the name of your building.
- Use the MeLCat identifier template. It is FAR more efficient if everyone’s information can be found in the same place.
Please have all staff review the RIDES Procedures!

https://mcls.org/ridesprocedures

Questions?
RIDES Assistance Form: https://mcls.org/rideshelp