



**LIBRARIES
SUPPORT
COMMUNITIES.**

**WE
SUPPORT
LIBRARIES.**



MIDWEST COLLABORATIVE
for LIBRARY SERVICES
Building better libraries



UNITING INDIANA AND MICHIGAN LIBRARIES

In 2010, the Indiana Cooperative Library Services Authority (INCOLSA) joined forces with the Michigan Library Consortium (MLC) to establish the Midwest Collaborative for Library Services (MCLS), devoted to supporting and enhancing the operation of public, academic, school, and special libraries in both states.

Keeping libraries in Indiana and Michigan effective, dynamic, and influential in their communities is the mission of MCLS.

Who are we, really?

Our staff are trained Public Innovators and facilitators who have worked with hundreds of libraries over the years. They are library professionals who are familiar with today's issues and who understand the local needs and aspirations of libraries.



WE MAKE IT WORK

Value of membership

MCLS membership opens the door to training, services, and group purchasing opportunities that can be customized to benefit any member library in Indiana or Michigan. MCLS is a trusted source that keeps you abreast of the latest trends in libraries, negotiates with vendors for your benefit, and provides excellent support whenever needed.

Training / Workshops

We offer dozens of different workshops and various special programs each year covering the latest developments in the profession. Taught by recognized leaders in the library field, and available in both states, these workshops cover topics like cataloging, licensing electronic resources, user experience, new technology, and much more.

Group purchasing

MCLS works with more than 70 vendors to provide central licensing and discounted pricing on over 2,000 products and services including databases, eBooks, eJournals, library supplies, software, and equipment. Members can build custom packages tailored to their specific needs to maximize the impact of their budget. This is just one way our member libraries get the resources they need to operate effectively and affordably.





Strategic planning

Strategic planning helps libraries align services with the needs of their community, establishes priorities, and creates a roadmap for the future. The MCLS staff knows and understand libraries. We work directly with you to engage your community in the process, identify strategic priorities, and create a tactical plan to achieve your vision.

Community engagement

Library services continue to evolve, and now more than ever, engaging your community to discover their true needs is a powerful way to develop library services that really matter. MCLS can provide your staff or board with on-site and customizable training opportunities on the concepts and skills needed to make engagement a part of your library culture.

Meeting facilitation

MCLS staff members are available to facilitate group discussions for your library. Whether they are strategy sessions, executive sessions, task forces, community gatherings or staff meetings, MCLS staff can serve as neutral facilitators to lead the discussion, keep the group focused, and guide groups to effective solutions.





TOGETHER WE GET IT DONE

Our success can only be measured by the accomplishments of our member libraries. We build personal relationships with our members and direct our organization's expertise and energy on understanding and dealing with each library's specific set of circumstances.

Identifying opportunities

In a time where many libraries are tasked to do more with less, serving the needs of active and diverse communities can be a challenge. MCLS helps libraries get in touch with their communities, listen to their needs, and come up with a plan.



What we do

At MCLS, we partner with vendors and members to provide the benefits of group purchasing. We provide in-person and online training and workshops to advance the skills of those in our profession by providing education on timely topics. We provide hands-on assistance with strategic planning, community engagement and meeting facilitation.

We do this for our members, and for the benefit of all libraries. Our staff of experienced librarians and professionals is focused entirely on the success of libraries in every corner of Indiana and Michigan.

Partnership activities

Because libraries can accomplish more when they work with one another, we look for ways to bring them together for regional and statewide projects. As libraries develop deeper relationships with each other, collaboration blossoms. Important services that have grown through our efforts include The Great Lakes Resource Sharing Conference, The Michigan eLibrary (MeL and MeLCat), RIDES, Linked Data for Library Users Group, Libraries Read 1 Book, and Community Engagement Workshops and Roundtables.

WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT

A great value any way you look at it

Membership in MCLS means you're really joining a team. You become part of a network of libraries with a common cause of serving your patrons and your community. A network that shares successes; a network that enjoys economies of group purchase; a network of partners devoted to success.

Our commitment to our members

MCLS is a collaborative organization partnering with Indiana and Michigan member libraries, product vendors, and other library entities to provide informational content, operational services, and personal oversight designed to assist libraries in helping themselves better relate to the patrons and communities they serve.

Call us today at (800) 530-9019 ext 407 or email us at engagement@mcls.org for additional information about how MCLS can be of service to your library.