



# Annual Report

2025



# Message from Board President Lisa Waskin

As my term as MCLS President comes to an end, I have been reflecting on a few of the things I consider to be highlights of the MCLS Board of Directors' work this year and focusing on some of the exciting things we have planned moving forward.

Over the past year, the Board has been working toward strengthening our governance and ensuring that MCLS continues to serve libraries across Indiana and Michigan effectively and sustainably. Through the work of various Board committees, we completed a comprehensive review of both our bylaws and policies, aligning them with our organizational goals, and defining our roles and responsibilities as Board members through Policy Governance training that supports transparent and accountable leadership. At our November retreat, we used what we have learned this year to focus on updating and improving our Ends (defined through the Policy Governance model as the broad, desired results or outcomes of MCLS).

Also, after taking a pause during the strategic planning process, we are now focusing on Ownership Linkage—our ongoing commitment to listen to, understand, and represent the voices of our member libraries. Through intentional conversations, a recent member survey, and participation in events throughout Indiana and Michigan, we have tried to deepen our understanding of member needs and how MCLS can best serve a diverse and evolving library landscape across both states while also dealing with the threat of cuts to statewide and national funding.

MCLS's strategic plan provides a clear roadmap for the future. It emphasizes collaboration, innovation, and equity in the ways we support libraries of all types and sizes. The Board is working closely with the Executive Director and staff to ensure that all of our strategic priorities are advanced through measurable goals and meaningful outcomes that meet the needs of our owner/members for all types of libraries in both Indiana and Michigan.

Looking ahead, we hope to increase engagement opportunities and to bring back an in-person event next year to help reconnect face-to-face with members, partners, and stakeholders across both Indiana and Michigan, and to continue building relationships that drive our shared mission forward.

As we move into the next chapter, I am reminded that the strength of MCLS lies in the power of collaboration, and that when libraries come together, we amplify innovation, expand access, and create lasting impact for the communities we serve. The year ahead promises continued growth, connection, and collective achievement as we work side by side to shape the future of library services in Indiana and Michigan.

On behalf of the MCLS Board, I want to thank Scott, the staff, our member libraries, and all who contribute their time and expertise to our collaborative work. Together, we are ensuring that MCLS remains a strong, responsive, and forward-thinking organization serving libraries across both our states.



# Executive Director's Message

Scott Garrison    [garrisons@mcls.org](mailto:garrisons@mcls.org)

As a complicated, unpredictable 2025 draws to a close, I'm thankful. I'm thankful for our staff, who work hard and proactively to provide excellent service and maintain the best relationships we can, in the spirit of fairness and collaboration with thoughtful ethics and solid integrity. I'm thankful for our Board and the time and effort they invest in representing the member libraries who own MCLS and in guiding our overall direction as an organization. I'm thankful for our many partners without whom we could not deliver value for libraries. Most importantly, I'm thankful for the hundreds of libraries of all types and sizes who entrust us with helping them accomplish their goals. Without them, we would not exist.

I think about the progress we've made in 2025 in terms of our strategic plan's four **key strategic priorities**:

**Engagement and Collaboration:** we listened to libraries, library associations, and other library consortia and have begun using what we've learned to strategize and invest in new directions to support libraries in meaningful and impactful ways with attention to Indiana and Michigan's individual contexts.

**Invest in Innovation:** we increased our attention toward generative artificial intelligence (AI) from vendors' offerings and license language to how our staff use AI in their work, saw growth in Text and Learn for Kindergarten (TALK) and the Michigan Digital Preservation Network (MDPN), and improved MeLCat's infrastructure.

**Strengthen and Support:** our training continued providing hundreds of participants from hundreds of libraries relevant and timely learning opportunities, we completed an array of consulting engagements, we served a growing number of libraries for eLicensing, and helped libraries adapt to changes in MCLS processes.

**Awareness and Accountability:** we supported the Board's work to update their Board Policy Manual and the MCLS Bylaws, continued working to get the most out of the systems we use, continued studying, documenting, and refining MCLS staff workflows, workloads and processes, and filled positions with attention to continuity and growth.

MCLS exists to empower libraries to achieve the extraordinary. As our Board continues its work to provide vision and guidance, as our staff and I operationalize the Board's vision and continue acting on our key strategic priorities, and as you deal with challenges and navigate our current environment, I'm thankful for all that you do and all that we do collectively to improve lives. There is strength in numbers. Let's continue onward in 2026, together.

# About MCLS



[mcls.org](https://mcls.org)

## MISSION

MCLS is a non-profit, member-driven organization that seeks to collaborate and share resources that support libraries of all types to better serve their communities.

## VISION

We empower libraries to achieve the extraordinary.

## PURPOSE

Connecting libraries with quality services, cost-effective products, new approaches, and creative solutions.

## CORE VALUES

### SERVICE EXCELLENCE

We keep libraries and library staff at the center of all that we do, strive to be responsive to their current and future needs, and remain committed to helping them excel.

### RELATIONSHIPS

We engage and listen actively with respect and authenticity.

### FAIRNESS

We believe everyone should be and feel empowered to succeed, respect individuality, and celebrate all unique perspectives.

### COLLABORATION

We foster community, connectedness, and partnerships to incubate ideas, co-create solutions, and experiment boldly.

### INTEGRITY

We support libraries professionally, ethically, and with transparency.

### PROACTIVE

We look forward to anticipate and prepare libraries for change.



# Board of Directors

## Comprised of 16 members

10 members represent library type:

2 Academic, 2 Public, 2 Research, 2 School, and 2 Special  
(1 Indiana and 1 Michigan representative per type)

4 At-Large Representatives (2 Indiana and 2 Michigan)

2 State Librarians: Indiana and Michigan (Ex-officio and voting)

## 2025 Board Roster

**Polly Boruff-Jones, Board Vice President**

Oakland University  
At-Large Representative (MI)

**Mike Hawthorne, Board Treasurer**

Wayne State University  
Research Library (MI)

**Andrea Ingmire**

Peter White Public Library  
At-Large Representative (MI)

**Kendra Lake**

North Central Michigan College  
Academic Library (MI)

**Ann West LaPrise**

Cornerstone Charter Schools  
School Library (MI)

**Beth McNeil**

Purdue University Libraries  
Research Library (IN)

**Melissa Merida**

New Albany-Floyd County Public Library  
Public Library (IN)

**Stephen Patton**

Indiana State University  
At-Large Representative (IN)

**Josh Petrusa**

Butler University  
Academic Library (IN)

**Randy Riley**

Library of Michigan  
(Permanent seat)

**Raenell Smith**

Clark-Pleasant Community School Corporation  
School Library (IN)

**Trista Smith**

Newburgh Chandler Public Library  
At-Large Representative (IN)

**Jake Speer**

Indiana State Library  
(Permanent seat)

**Brenna Tuite, Board Secretary**

Franciscan Health Lafayette  
Special Library (IN)

**Lisa Waskin, Board President**

Superior District Library  
Public Library (MI)

**Rima Zalghout**

Arab American National Museum  
Special Library (MI)



# MCLS Staff

## We welcomed the following staff to new roles in 2025:

**Ann Kaskinen**, TALK Program Coordinator

**James Orme**, Financial Controller/Business Manager

**Ja'Kayla Sisson-Kilpatrick**, Administrative Assistant

**Laura Warren-Gross**, Engagement Strategist



## Business Manager Janet LaCross retires Dec. 31, 2025 after a remarkable 39-year career with MCLS.

Janet has seen and helped guide MCLS through an astonishing amount of change in her many years with us, and we wish her a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

## Department Contacts

### Accounting

accounting@mcls.org  
800-530-9019

### Consulting Services

engagement@mcls.org  
517-939-1383

### eLicensing and Collection Resources

services@mcls.org  
517-939-1382

### MeLCat\*

melcathelp@mcls.org  
517-939-1385

### MeL eResources\*

melerhelp@mcls.org  
517-939-1384

### Membership

membership@mcls.org  
517-939-1388

### Michigan Digital Preservation Network (MDPN)\*\*

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

### RIDES

mcls.org/rideshelp ➤  
517-939-1385

### TALK: Text and Learn for Kindergarten

talkhelp@mcls.org  
textandlearn.org ➤

### Training

training@mcls.org  
517-220-9950  
store.mcls.org ➤

*\*The MeL project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library of Michigan.*

*\*\*The MDPN was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library of Michigan and a grant to the Midwest Collaborative for Library Services.*

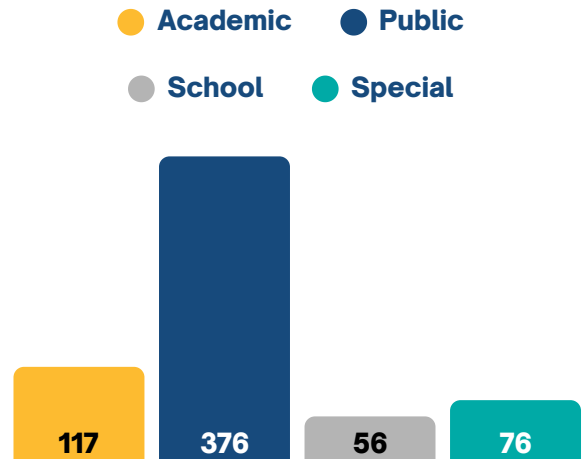
# Member Snapshot

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

## Members by State



## Members by Type



We welcomed the following libraries to our [member community](#) from Dec. 1, 2024-Nov. 30, 2025:

Allen County Public Library (IN)  
Belleville Area District Library (MI)  
Bourbon Public Library (IN)  
Kirklin Public Library (IN)  
Ladoga-Clark Township Public Library (IN)  
Liberty Fund Inc. (IN)  
Linden-Carnegie Public Library (IN)

Loogootee Public Library (IN)  
Negaunee Public Library (MI)  
North Adams Community Memorial Library (MI)  
Oakland City Columbia Township Public Library (IN)  
Odon Winkelpleck Public Library (IN)  
Princeton Public Library (IN)  
Vigo County Public Library (IN)

## Fiscal Data



	FY2025	FY2024
Total assets	\$18,980,084	\$17,160,718
Liabilities and net assets	\$18,980,084	\$17,160,718
Total revenue	\$24,706,877	\$25,711,948
Total expenses	\$24,478,560	\$25,550,996
Net assets	\$10,033,286	\$9,804,969
Change in net assets	\$228,317	\$160,952



# Service and Program Highlights

MCLS exists to empower libraries to be community-responsive leaders. We tackle the challenges of contemporary library practice, develop innovative solutions, foster robust collaborations, and facilitate transformative learning.

## eLicensing and Collection Resources (eLCR)

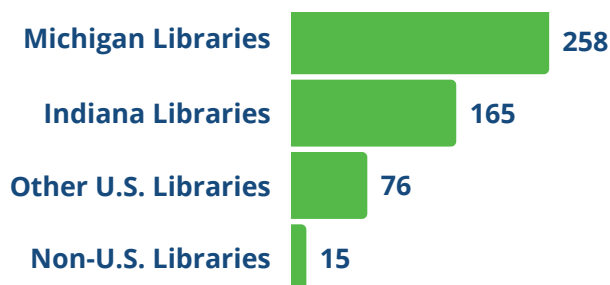
We currently partner with **77 vendors** to provide discounted pricing on **1,000+ products**.

MCLS's OEN consortial membership allowed member libraries to each save \$1,244 off list price for OEN membership.

In FY2025 our eLCR staff continued offering five OA "transformative agreements" and one shared OA article processing charge (APC) fund:

- **American Chemical Society** (21 libraries participating)
- **Association of Computing Machinery** (15 libraries participating)
- **Cambridge University Press** (12 libraries participating)
- **Institute of Physics** (6 libraries participating)
- **Oxford University Press** (*new in FY2025*; 9 libraries participating)
- **John Wiley and Sons** (shared APC fund; 7 libraries participating)

514 libraries around the world relied on MCLS for negotiated discounts.



In addition to 423 Indiana and Michigan members, we served:

- 76 libraries in 25 states
- 15 libraries in 7 countries including Bahrain, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Singapore, and Trinidad and Tobago!



**TALK ended FY2025 with 177 libraries in four states subscribed (a 90% increase over FY2024), 1,977 phone numbers registered, and 2,442 children enrolled (a 34% increase over FY2024).**

With its 635 text messages in English and Spanish, Text and Learn for Kindergarten (TALK) is a tool libraries can use to build relationships with parents of young children by promoting early learning, as well as library programs and other offerings.

# Engagement, Consulting, and Training (ECT)

The ECT team tackles the challenges of contemporary library practice, develop innovative solutions, foster dialogues, and facilitate transformative learning.

## Consulting Stats

Strategic planning projects completed	Staff day training workshops	Virtual Dialogues	Libraries visited
9	7	5	41

Our staff and other training instructors added these new training workshops:

1. Back to School with MeL
2. Business and Legal eResources from MeL
3. Color Our World: MeL eResources and Summer Reading 2025
4. MeLCat DCB Sierra Web
5. MeLCat Mythbusters
6. Cataloging OER and Online Resources
7. Copy Cataloging of Audio and Video Materials Using RDA
8. Introduction to BIBFRAME
9. BIBFRAME Applications
10. Advanced Serials Cataloging
11. Integrating Resources Cataloging
12. Wellbeing for Libraries: Empowering Yourself and Others

## Workshop Stats

**136 workshops**  
**1,669 registrants**  
**356 participant libraries**

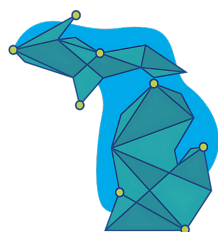
## Client Feedback

*MCLS will work with you as a partner to customize what's right for your strategic planning project. They will give you extra capacity to help your library or organization succeed!*

*The process not only resulted in a plan that the library will be able to implement, it also encouraged growth and communication for the staff and the board of trustees. It really helped us to look outward.*

# Michigan Digital Preservation Network (MDPN)

Support for the MDPN is provided in part by the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) and the [Library of Michigan](#).

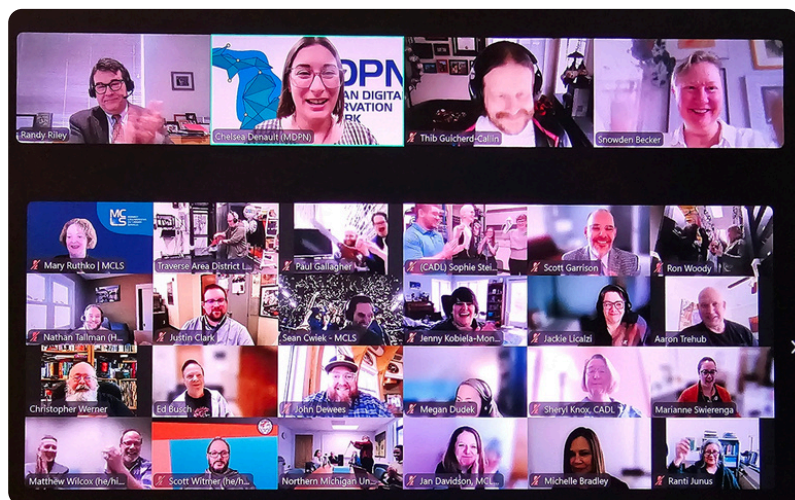


**MDPN**  
MICHIGAN DIGITAL  
PRESERVATION  
NETWORK  
mipres.org

*The MDPN helps Michigan libraries and cultural memory organizations preserve digital local history collections and business records. Materials stored in the LOCKSS 2.0 Network are safeguarded from disasters, obsolescence, and ransomware.*

Our staff started a pilot project on digital preservation consulting, **worked with 17 other digital preservation organizations** to ensure MDPN and others could sustain success in terms of software and other aspects, and **presented or co-presented 18 times** in FY2025.

The Network now has **14 members** (including new members Kalamazoo Valley Museum and the Sloan Museum of Discovery), who approved a new set of governing documents and a new advisory committee in FY2025.



- **Launched the first LOCKSS 2.0 network in 2025**, which serves as a model for future collaborative preservation networks worldwide.
- **34 digital local history collections and datasets are currently under preservation.**

*On March 12, 2025, more than 60 people from around the world attended the MDPN Virtual Ribbon Cutting Ceremony livestreamed from its five server locations across Michigan.*

**Special thanks to our LOCKSS server hosts  
for making the Network possible:**

Capital Area District Libraries/Michigan State University  
Eastern Michigan University  
Northern Michigan University  
Traverse Area District Library  
Western Michigan University



# Shared Library Systems (SLS)

In close collaboration with the Library of Michigan, MCLS's Shared Library Systems (SLS) staff provide implementation, training, and support for the 436 libraries that participate in **MeLCat**, as well as for **MeL eResources**. They also coordinate the **RIDES** delivery service.

## MeL eResources Engagement

Our MeL team continued promoting MeL eResources via in-person and online eResource training, conference presentations, and more statewide.

They wrote **24 MeL Minute emails** on ways libraries and their users can use MeL in work and in life, **engaged 839 people** at conferences and training programs, and created **three new webinars** and presented **ten new conference sessions**.

Their **Michigan Virtual courses** had **643 completions** and their **EduPaths courses** had **10,331 completions** in FY2025.



## Staff at the MeLCat 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Oct. 30, 2025 at the Library of Michigan

## MeL/MeLCat Support Stats

MeLCat support tickets	MeLCat migrations	MeL engagement support tickets	MeL engagement attendees (non booth traffic)	MeLCat training attendees (including RIDES)
4,288	17	102	1,408	550

The MeL project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library of Michigan.



- 740 libraries
- 381 delivery locations
- 60,428 annual stops

**RIDES is Michigan's statewide interlibrary loan courier service, expanding access to materials by connecting libraries across the Lower and Upper Peninsulas.** Public, academic, school, special libraries, cooperatives, school districts, ISDs, and REMCs can participate, regardless of MCLS membership.

# We support the library profession through active participation in many partnerships, major events, and initiatives such as:

## International

- International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC)

## National

- Partnership for Shared Book Collections

## Regional

- Indiana FREAdOM to Read
- Indiana Library Federation committees
- Indiana State Library Professional Development Advisory Committee
- Indiana State Library Resource Sharing Committee
- Indiana University Luddy School Library & Information Science Advisory Board
- Linked Data User Group
- Oakland Community College Library Technician Program Advisory Committee
- Michigan Academic Library Association (MiALA)
- Michigan Digital Preservation Network (MDPN)
- Michigan eLibrary Catalog (MeLCat)
- Michigan eLibrary (MeL) eResources
- Michigan Library Awards workgroup
- Michigan Shared Print Initiative (MI-SPI)
- MLA Library Advocacy Day
- Regional Interlibrary Delivery Service (RIDES)

*MCLS continued supporting freedom to read work, sponsoring the Indiana Library Federation's John Green In Conversation with IN FREAdOM program on June 30.*



Free MCLS workshop winners at MLA 2025

## 2025 Conferences

- **ILF Annual** exhibitors, sponsors, and session presenters
- **ILF Regionals** sponsor
- **ILF Youth Services** sponsor
- **MASL Annual** sponsor
- **MLA Annual** exhibitor, sponsor, and session presenters
- **MLA Spring Institute** exhibitor
- **MiALA Annual** sponsor
- **UPRLC Annual** exhibitor, sponsor, and session presenters

## OUR KEY PARTNERS

