



# Annual Report 2024

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800-530-9019



# 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

I appreciate the opportunity to share with you what MCLS and its Board of Directors have accomplished this year and what our plans are moving into 2025. As you may know, MCLS has been hard at work on creating a strategic plan. Scott and his team, working closely with our consultants at Spartina Consulting, did a lot of work this year getting input for the plan. Board members participated actively in the process. We held listening sessions, ran a survey, and interviewed key stakeholders to obtain input on the direction the membership would like to see the organization take. All of this data was used to craft an updated mission, vision, and values, and the four key strategic priorities of the strategic plan. Because this work had the Board and the organization working closely with our membership, the Board decided to pause its own process of getting input from MCLS members this year. This allowed us to focus more fully on helping with the strategic plan and we are now using the feedback obtained at the board level, as well.

I'm excited to see how this feedback is informing how we are moving forward. The Board is using the input received to check in with our Ends, our statement of what positive impact we'd like to see the organization create for you, the member libraries who own the organization. Both the Ends and the rest of the Board Policy Manual have not been updated for some time, so in the coming year, the Board is prioritizing updating those to align with where the organization is heading, especially considering MCLS's key strategic priorities. We are also looking forward to evaluating how we listen to member libraries and building energy behind a new plan for that work.

The MCLS Board of Directors is grateful to you, our member libraries. Thank you for all you do for your communities, and thank you for partnering with MCLS to help get that good work done.

**Trista Smith**  
**President**  
**MCLS Board of Directors**

## 2024 Officers

President: Trista Smith  
Vice President: Polly Boruff-Jones  
Secretary: Mike Hawthorne  
Treasurer: Lisa Waskin

## 2024 Board of Directors

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

Mike Hawthorne  
Wayne State University  
Research Library (MI)

Kendra Lake  
North Central Michigan College  
Academic 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)

Paulina Poplawska  
Salem-South Lyon District Library  
At-Large Representative (MI)

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  
Franciscan Health Lafayette  
Special Library (IN)

Lisa Waskin  
Superior District Library  
Public Library (MI)

Ann West LaPrise  
Cornerstone Charter Schools  
School Library (MI)

Rima Zalgout  
Arab American National Museum  
Special Library (MI)

# Executive Director's Message

MCLS exists to empower libraries to achieve the extraordinary. That vision, along with our Board of Directors' Ends statement about the benefits the MCLS is to provide to libraries, guides our work. Our vision emerged as an element of our strategic plan that came from months of work listening, theming, analyzing, and synthesizing. If you were one of the 136 persons who participated in our 2024 strategic planning process, thank you for sharing your perspectives with us. Our staff and management team are working now on our initial priorities for how we foster Engagement and Collaboration, Invest in Innovation, and Strengthen and Support libraries all while ensuring Awareness and Accountability for our work.

A strategic plan offers a path to change. For us, that path is one of many. This year, we implemented a new accounting system and began a migration from one bank to another so we can improve operations internally and our service to you. We brought on new staff whose ideas are helping us improve. We launched Text and Learn for Kindergarten (TALK) nationally to support early learning for children under 6. We brought the world's first LOCKSS 2.0 (Lots of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe) digital preservation network to life. We continued our efforts to promote open access and other open initiatives. Along the way, we also navigated significant technological change to continue supporting the infrastructure that powers hundreds of Michigan libraries to move over one million physical items throughout the state. Over 1,700 people participated in over 130 training programs we offered to learn new skills. We helped over 400 libraries acquire content and more from 66 publishers and vendors, in their effort to make a difference for their users. I could go on about the change our staff experienced and fostered in 2024. For now, I'll thank you for the continuing faith and trust you place in our excellent staff to help you serve your communities to the greatest extent possible. We exist for you.

Over the decades since the Michigan Library Consortium's (MLC) and the Indiana Cooperative Library Service Agency's (INCOLSA) founding in 1974 and our nearly 15 years as an organization, MCLS has served hundreds of libraries in their work to serve their communities. It remains our privilege every day to serve libraries of all types and sizes throughout Indiana, Michigan, and beyond. I hope you and your library had a good 2024. I thank you for all you do to improve lives in your community, and for allowing us to play a role in that work. And, I hope to see you in 2025.



**Scott Garrison**  
**Executive Director**  
**MCLS**  
[garrisons@mcls.org](mailto:garrisons@mcls.org)

# About MCLS

## MISSION

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

## PURPOSE

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

## VISION

Empowering libraries to achieve the extraordinary.



**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.**

- 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.

## Key partners



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

### National

- Partnership for Shared Book Collections
- TALK: Text and Learn for Kindergarten

### 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)

# MCLS Strategic Plan (2025-2028)

## BACKGROUND

MCLS began work on a strategic plan in 2023 with the help of Spartina Consulting. We used a strengths-based process to create our plan based on the input we gathered earlier this year from our Board, staff, member libraries, and other important stakeholders. The result is a flexible, living document we can adapt as rapid change for libraries and their users continues.

As we start to roadmap our plan, MCLS staff is paying careful attention to balancing existing priorities with potential new ones we've identified from gathered input. Additionally, the MCLS Board of Directors will consider how their governance and vision-setting work intersects with our plan over the next three years.

## METHOD

- **November 2023:** We started the process at the MCLS Board retreat, where Spartina Consulting guided a group of our staff and the MCLS Board of Directors to create an initial strategic plan framework.
- **February-April 2024:** We tested the framework and gathered input from a variety of stakeholders through community conversations, interviews, and a survey.
- **May-June 2024:** Our staff reviewed the gathered input and identified the opportunities that were both new and aligned with our initial framework.
- **July 2024:** Our managers turned those results along with a number of potential strategies that came from the input we gathered into our strategic plan.
- **August 2024:** We engaged our staff to help determine potential strategies and shared the plan with the MCLS Board to keep Board and staff work aligned.

**58**  
survey responses

**49**  
people attended

**8**  
listening sessions

**29**  
interviews

**In addition to the Mission, Purpose, and Vision on the preceding page, the following Core Values and Key Strategic Priorities reflect the basics of our strategic plan. We will have much more to share in the weeks and months to come!**

## **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.

### **EQUITY**

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.

## **KEY STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

### **ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION**

We seek to grow our community through opportunities to connect and cultivate relationships.

### **INVEST IN INNOVATION**

We challenge ourselves and others to imagine and re-imagine by exploring unique ideas, services, and solutions.

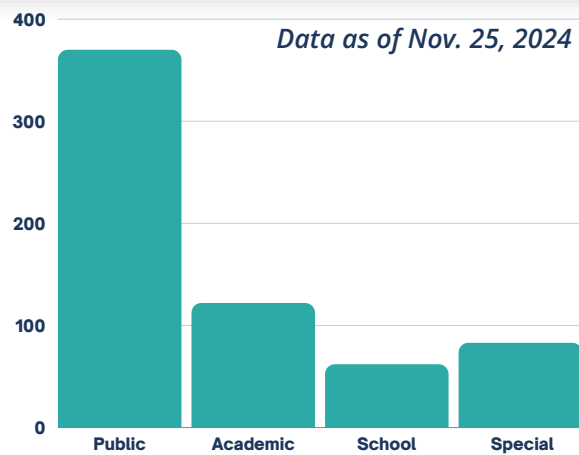
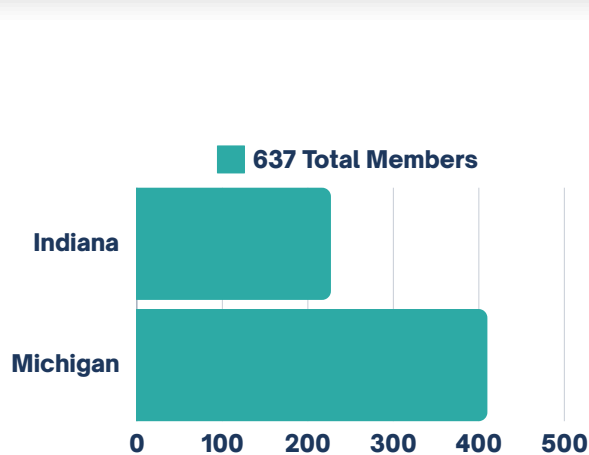
### **STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT**

We seek to support and advocate for libraries to advance the profession, empower library staff, and ultimately benefit and strengthen the communities we serve.

### **AWARENESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

We continually evaluate and improve operations and policies for the benefit, service, and support for our community.

# Member snapshot



## MCLS welcomed the following libraries to our member community from July 2023-November 2024:

Ascension St. Vincent Evansville  
 Ashley District Library  
 Benton Harbor Charter School  
 Christian Leaders Institute  
 Coleman Area Library  
 Curtis Public Library  
 Flat River Library  
 Gladwin County District Library  
 Hamilton North Public Library  
 Henika District Library  
 Indiana University South Bend  
 Karmanos Cancer Institute

Ladoga-Clark Township Public Library  
 Mathematical Reviews. Division of the AMS  
 Millington Arbela District Library  
 Mount Clemens Public Library  
 Otsego County Library  
 Romulus Public Library  
 Tyson Library  
 Waldron District Library  
 Walkerton-Lincoln Township Public Library  
 Waterloo Grant Township Public Library  
 West Iron District Library

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

## Fiscal data

	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024
<b>Total assets</b>	\$17,419,233	\$16,242,908	\$17,160,718
<b>Liabilities and net assets</b>	\$17,419,233	\$16,242,908	\$17,160,718
<b>Total revenue</b>	\$25,393,642	\$26,814,051	\$25,711,948
<b>Total expenses</b>	\$26,132,218	\$27,012,895	\$25,550,996
<b>Net assets</b>	\$9,842,861	\$9,644,017	\$9,804,969
<b>Change in net assets</b>	(\$738,576)	(\$198,884)	\$160,952



# Service and Program Highlights

## eLicensing and Collection Resources (eLCR)

Formerly known as “Group Purchasing,” eLCR rebranded to better reflect the many functions it performs to serve MCLS member libraries (and beyond). During FY 2024, eLCR staff:



- managed 3,612 subscriptions for 458 libraries.
- worked with 70 publishers and vendors to offer 516 products.
- processed 456 new orders in addition to renewals.
- negotiated with new vendors to get up to 25% off discounted pricing and renewal rate terms.
- improved ConsortiaManager (CM) training materials, instructions, and workflows for member libraries such as **FAQs** and a **Getting Started Toolkit**.
- developed unique quoting and workflow processes for the **TALK service**, which was launched nationally at PLA in April 2024.
- welcomed Sarah Beaubien as the new eLCR Manager upon Stephanie Davis's retirement.

## Engagement, Consulting, and Training (ECT)

In addition to engaging directly with hundreds of library staff at events and conferences throughout Indiana and Michigan, and facilitating deeper conversations between libraries and their communities, ECT staff:

- visited 38 libraries.
- held 9 **MCLS Virtual Dialogues** with over 230 participants.
- worked with 15 libraries to facilitate a variety of professional development topics.
- offered 130 **training programs** to 1690 registrants from 369 libraries.
- added 7 new training topics.



## 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 437 libraries that participate in **MeLCat**, as well as for **MeL eResources**. They also coordinate the **RIDES** delivery service.

MeLCat staff:

- opened more than 3,400 library help tickets.
- served more than 300 library staff through 45 MeLCat-related trainings.

MeL Engagement Specialists:

- promoted MeL eResources to K-12 and public library audiences throughout Michigan.
- engaged with more than 2,050 people at trainings and conferences.
- published 20 MeL Minutes on ways libraries can use MeL in their daily work.
- wrote over 400 social media posts offering tips and tricks and promoting specific MeL eResource content.



RIDES staff:

- negotiated a 3-year contract renewal with the courier to provide service across Michigan.
- offered a new RIDES webinar to help libraries understand what happens at the courier warehouses and how materials move through the system.

*The MeL project was made possible in part by the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) through the [Library of Michigan](#).*



# Michigan Digital Preservation Network (MDPN)

MDPN was created to build a digital preservation network for Michigan. We use the **LOCKSS 2.0** (Lots of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe) digital preservation software created by Stanford University Libraries. Special thanks go to our **server hosts**: Capital Area District Libraries/Michigan State University, Eastern Michigan University, Northern Michigan University, Traverse Area District Libraries, and Western Michigan University.



MDPN welcomed:

- Northern Michigan University and the Kalamazoo Valley Museum to our member community.
- new committee members from Wayne State University and the Archives of Michigan.

MDPN staff:

- in collaboration with MDPN partners, built the world's first preservation network using **LOCKSS 2.0** software, and developed workflows that allow members to deposit content into MDPN.
- began hosting monthly collaboration calls with our counterparts at InDiPres in Indiana.
- collaborated with students at the University of Michigan School of Information to create technical documentation and tools for MDPN members to use for selecting digital content for preservation.
- began **accepting applications** for a free preservation storage grant funded by IMLS that is focused on protecting at-risk or underrepresented digital collections.
- Dr. Chelsea Denault was elected to the **National Digital Stewardship Alliance** Coordinating Committee.

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

## MCLS Contacts

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

800-530-9019



### Business Hours

Monday - Friday  
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Eastern  
Excluding holidays

#### Accounting

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#### Consulting Services

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#### eLicensing and

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#### MeL eResources

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#### MeLCat

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#### Membership

membership@mcls.org  
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[All staff  
contacts](#)

#### Michigan Digital Preservation Network

denaultc@mcls.org  
517-325-0826  
[mipres.org](https://mipres.org) >

#### RIDES

[mcls.org/rideshelp](https://mcls.org/rideshelp) >  
517-939-1385

#### TALK: Text and Learn for Kindergarten

talkhelp@mcls.org  
[textandlearn.org](https://textandlearn.org) >

#### Training

training@mcls.org  
517-220-9950