

Midwest Collaborative for Library Services (MCLS)

Strategic Plan

FY2025-FY2028

Created by MCLS Staff July-August 2024

The MCLS staff created this strategic plan using information we gathered from a variety of stakeholders from late 2023 through early 2024. This is a living document that will allow us to adapt as rapid change for libraries continues. The objectives below may change during the life of the plan. We thank the MCLS Board of Directors, everyone who engaged with us throughout our process, and Spartina Consulting for their help and support.

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.

CORE VALUES

Service Excellence ♦ Relationships ♦ Fairness ♦ Collaboration ♦ Integrity ♦ Proactive

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.

Key Strategic Priorities

ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION

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

Objectives

- People will say they had opportunities to connect and engage with others in the profession.
- Partners will indicate MCLS is trustworthy and accountable.
- Members who indicate they trust MCLS to provide quality services will increase each year.
- MCLS Annual Meeting attendees will increase each year.
- Requests for services will increase annually.

INVEST IN INNOVATION

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

Objectives

- Available “Open” offerings (e.g. Open Access, Open Education Resources, Transformative Agreements) will increase each year.
- MCLS will increase investments to library innovation initiatives each year.
- The number of libraries offering TALK will increase each year.
- Libraries will indicate community members find TALK effective.

- Indiana and Michigan libraries will indicate they used the MCLS data repository to power decisions.

STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT (includes Advocacy)

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

Objectives

- Organizations will have access to the resources they need.
- People will say they had the opportunity to strengthen their knowledge and skills.
- Courses on relevant topics will be added each year to fill library workforce skill gaps.
- MCLS will partner with new vendors to the benefit of each library market served each year.
- Libraries will indicate increased awareness of available MCLS services and resources.

AWARENESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY (includes Governance, Process and Operations, and Marketing and Communications)

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

Objectives

- People will indicate they have an increased awareness of library consortia.
- People will indicate satisfaction with MCLS processes and transactions.
- MCLS Board members will be engaged and energized about their work.
- MCLS Board members will indicate they feel supported and knowledgeable about their work.