



LEADING THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALL  
MICHIGAN LIBRARIES THROUGH ADVOCACY,  
EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

January 30, 2024

Representative  
PO Box 30014  
House of Representatives  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative,

As the new year begins, I wanted to reach out to share some information about the excellent programs and services that take place in Michigan's public libraries.

The Michigan Library Association (MLA) has served the library profession in Michigan for 132 years. We are a collaborative network of libraries, library professionals and library supporters who are dedicated to advocating for libraries, growing as leaders in the library community and advancing the profession. Our mission is to lead the advancement of all Michigan libraries through advocacy, education and engagement.

Michigan's 397 public libraries are busy places with more than 7,700 dedicated staff members working to serve over 10 million library patrons (with more than 50% of Michigan residents holding a library card.) We thought it would be fun to share a snapshot of everything our libraries accomplished in 2022.[1]

In 2022, our Michigan libraries:

- Loaned out more than 48.1 million books, movies, and music
- Loaned out close to 13.6 million digital materials like eBooks
- Had 20.3 million patrons walk through their doors.
- Had over 38.7 million virtual library visits
- Hosted more than 92,000 programs and events
- Provided WiFi that was used more than 9.6 million times
- Employed more than 7,770 people.

We know that you and your district residents put a high value on the vital services that our library provides in your community. Our public libraries are places to read, places to gather and socialize, and places to study and learn – cultural institutions in the heart of every community throughout Michigan. We hope we can count on you to support your local library as well as all of Michigan's libraries throughout your tenure.

Please feel free to reach out to me or Bob DeVries with GCSI (MLA's lobby firm) at any time. We would be happy to provide more facts and figures on libraries and library usage or to connect you to your local library director.

Sincerely,

Deborah E. Mikula, Executive Director

[1] Michigan library statistics are compiled by the Library of Michigan from the Annual Report/State Aid Application submitted by public libraries, cooperatives and braille and talking book libraries.