



Annual Report

• 2024 •



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Letter from the Executive Director

As libraries continue to connect in their communities, the work of The Library Network (TLN) is to connect our member libraries. This year the cooperative accomplished many things to help libraries provide greater access to shared resources. The Library Network is Libraries Working Together.



Our core activities directly impact service to the public. The shared library catalog offers 4 million items for request and checkout. Coupled with our delivery services, those items are often available overnight, to the millions of residents in our service region. This year we were excited to begin a multi-year project to move libraries and TLN to RFID technology, which will lay a stronger foundation for these services in the future. TLN believes that together, libraries can accomplish more.

Our direct-to-patron services also saw growth this year. The Michigan Activity Pass (MAP) saw exponentially increased use. Our Download Destination collections for the first time ever collectively saw over two million checkouts for electronic resources. The cooperative this year made new financial investments in these services.

The Library Network continues to engage library workers to build our collective communities. Members participated in committee work, helped to craft new policies, and worked to support access and inclusion for all. Our work will continue to support library workers as well as the public that we all serve together.

I welcome you to take a look through the annual report to see more highlights from our year in review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Brown".



Board of Trustees

Welcome
Kathie to the
Board!



Kathie Brown
Trustee
Class 6 Libraries



Arthur M. Woodford
Vice Chair
At-Large Representative



Victor Cardenas
Chair
Class 6 Libraries



Rita VanBrandeghen
Secretary
Shared System Libraries



Joyce Parker
Treasurer
Class 5 Libraries



Lois VanStipdonk
Trustee
Class 6 Libraries



Debra Green
Trustee
Class 1,2,3 Libraries



Charles Hanson
Trustee
Class 6 Libraries



Ebony L. Duff
Trustee
Class 4 Libraries

Thank you to Mark
Wollenweber for the 18
years of service on the TLN
Board of Trustees.



Mark Wollenweber
Former Board Chair
Class 6 Libraries



Staff Celebrations

New Achievements

Damon Dye
Technology Services
Manager
40 Years

Corliss Jones
Senior Account
Specialist
40 Years

Lorne Kilgore
Sr. Driver
15 Years

Andrea Polsgrove
ILS/IT Systems
Technician
10 Years

Randy Dalziel
Delivery Driver
5 Years

David Lapish
Delivery Driver
5 Years

Bill VanHorn
Delivery Driver
5 Years

Retirements

Sue LaBenne
BDDB Specialist

Jeri Lobb
Technical Assistant

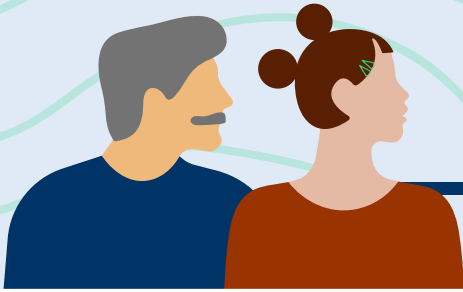
New Additions

Kelly Bennett
Contract Services
Coordinator

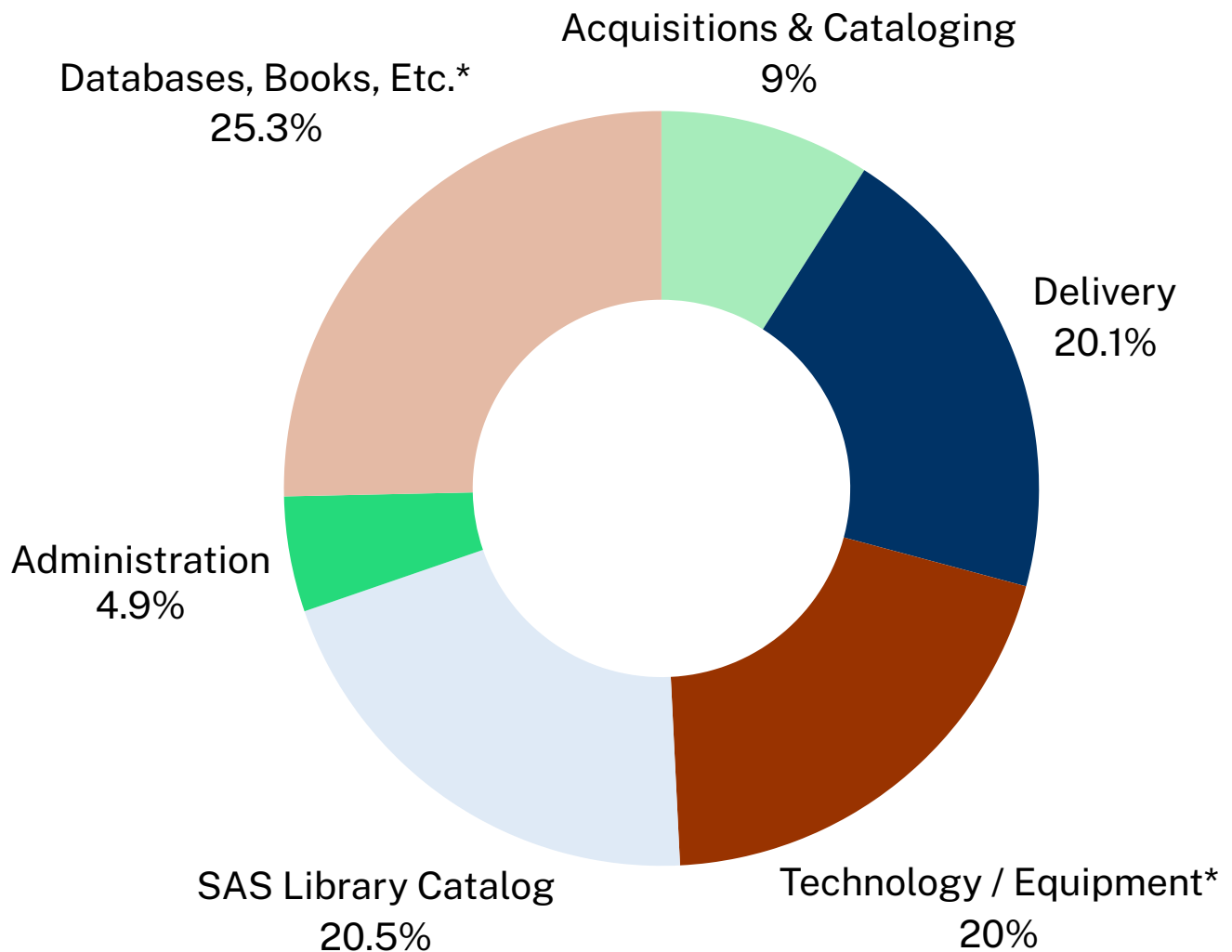
Samuel Brylinski
Sorter

Neil Laperriere
Sorter

Becky Moericke
Technical Assistant/
Receptionist



Money at Work



*Pass-through dollars billed to libraries.

Funding for TLN goes towards making libraries better in the following ways. Numbers are reflective of the 2024 fiscal year.

Michigan Activity Pass Statistics



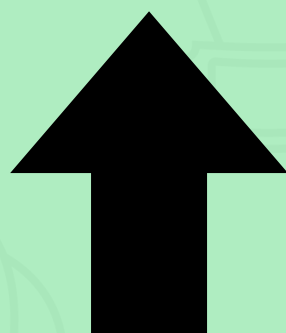
MICHIGAN ACTIVITY PASS

The Michigan Activity Pass continues to wow as we celebrate a year from the new website launch. Here are some statistics on how the program was used this year.



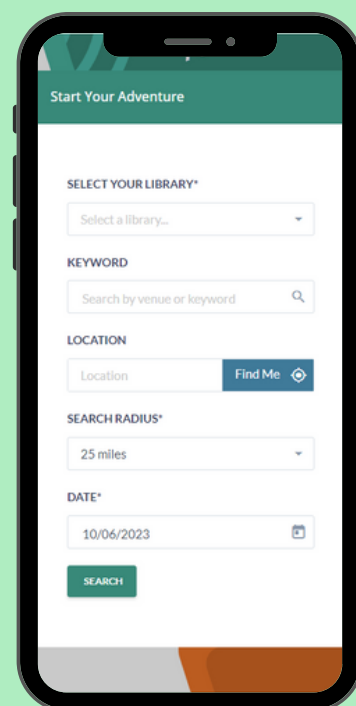
**18,222
passes**

checked out through MAP
during the TLN fiscal year
(Oct 2023 - Sept 2024)



**35%
increase**

compared to 2023 fiscal
(Oct 2022 - Sept 2023)

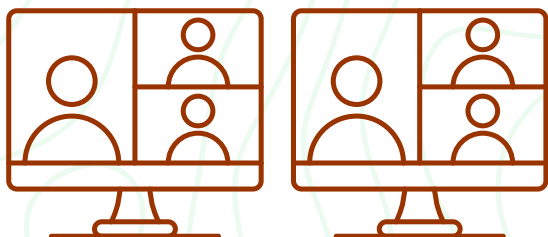




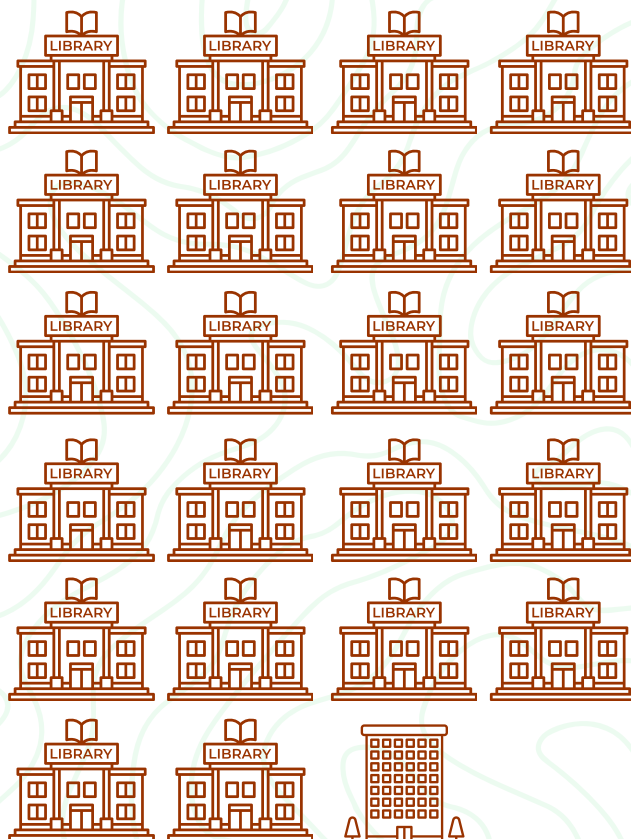
Encompass EAP

TLN has negotiated discounted prices for Encompass EAP through AllOne Health, which provides mental health counseling, work/life resources, legal/financial resources, and more.

2 webinars
hosted by Encompass EAP's
therapists live



681
people
covered through the EAP



22
libraries
covered plus the TLN office

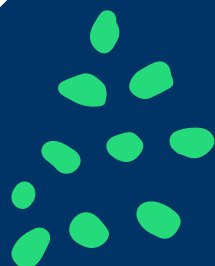
Learn More

Find out more about TLN's EAP and how you can take advantage of it.
tln.org/eap

Gleaners Food for Thought Campaign



From March 18 to April 26, libraries throughout TLN and Suburban Library Cooperative helped encourage food and monetary donations for Gleaners Community Food Bank, which helped to feed households throughout Southeast Michigan.



4,814
pounds

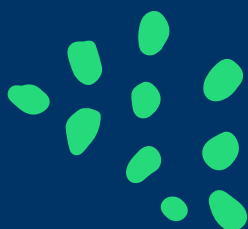
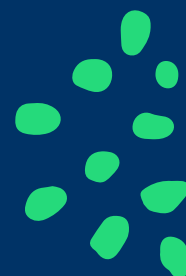


of food donated between all
participating libraries and TLN

\$1,257
dollars



donated between all
participating libraries and TLN



7,382
meals



provided to hungry neighbors
throughout Southeast Michigan
through the campaign

TLN's RFID Project



The mission of The Library Network is to help libraries partner together to maximize access to library materials. Our core services include our shared library catalog (SAS) and our delivery system, which together help libraries to share 1.5 million items a year. As sharing continues to grow TLN is looking to the future, and planning to assist libraries in adopting RFID technology, which will increase our ability to share resources.

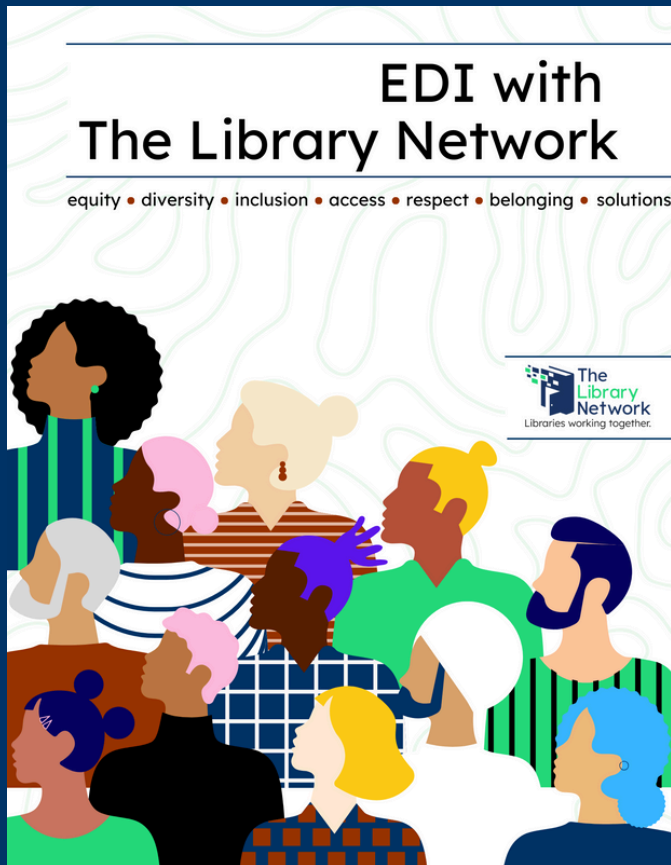
Library cooperatives such as TLN were created to provide member libraries with shared services. This often means cooperatives offer services that individual libraries may find difficult or financially impossible to offer on their own. Adoption of RFID is one such service that TLN is now planning to take on as a cooperative group.

TLN began this project by advancing discussion with the SAS membership. Along with assisting libraries to move to RFID technology the first phases of the project will also establish a framework for the TLN Delivery and Sorting Team to use an Automated Materials Handling (AMH) system in-house for more efficient and sustainable work in the future. Potentially all members of TLN can benefit from the project with reduced costs for RFID materials and supplies, even for libraries using their own systems.

Keep Up with The Project

Stay up to date with the
RFID Project at
tln.org/rfid

EDI with The Library Network



Through the TLN Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, a new EDI Statement highlighting TLN's framework around the work to uplift underrepresented communities was completed this year.

The document includes initial definitions for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion along with related ideas, definitions for what underrepresented means, what we are defining as underrepresented communities, and the actions being taken to help.

The document is living, given that new definitions and concepts may need to be added in the future.

A big thank you to the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee who helped craft this statement along with the Affinity Groups (Vibrant Voices and Rainbow Connection), the Steering Committee, and TLN Board of Trustees for reviewing and supporting this document.

Read the Statement

Read the EDI Statement
at tln.org/edi



Fine Free Statement



TLN's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee has worked to complete a Fine Free Statement, meant to help educate boards and other decision makers as to the impact of removing overdue fines at their library. Libraries in and out of TLN have been considering making this choice for themselves and may need additional tools to help start the discussion. Some of the advantages highlighted include:



library access is maximized for all



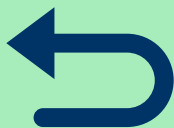
improved staff morale through reduction in negative patron interactions



increased circulation of library materials



costs are reduced for tracking and processing fines



long overdue, lost, and missing materials are returned, reducing material and financial loss



burden of enforcement and confrontation removed from staff



stigma and shame for tardiness is removed



the library is viewed as being true to core values and supportive of the community

Read More

Read the Fine Free Statement at tln.org/news/689206/

Workplace Perceptions Survey

After feedback from our Community Groups, the TLN Board issued the request to do a Workplace Perceptions Survey across libraries in the TLN cooperative. Library staff and TLN employees were asked a series of questions relating to their perceptions of the climate and culture of their employer, giving space for staff to talk about harassment or discrimination they have received.

With 868 library employees completing the survey, iLabs from U of M Dearborn's School of Business was able to provide a snapshot of how library staff feel at their libraries currently. The results will continue to guide the cooperative in the years to come.



Learn More

Read more about the Workplace Perceptions Survey and read the report at tln.org/workplace

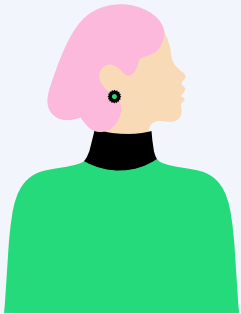
Communities

TLN proudly hosts affinity groups called Communities that allow for networking and comradery amongst members of groups of underrepresented library staff. These groups host at minimum a virtual talk each month for people to come in and talk with members of their community.



Vibrant Voices

Hosting space for members of the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) communities, Vibrant Voices is home to library staff that identify with an underrepresented racial or ethnic identity.



Rainbow Connection

Hosting space for members of the LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, and Asexual) communities, Rainbow Connection is hosts library staff that identify with an underrepresented sexual orientation or gender identity.

Coming Soon



Disability Community

As we continue to provide space for affinity groups, a new one is being formed for those in the Disability community. Join our group and help us give it a name!

TLN @ Motor City Pride

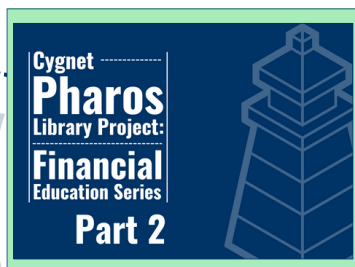
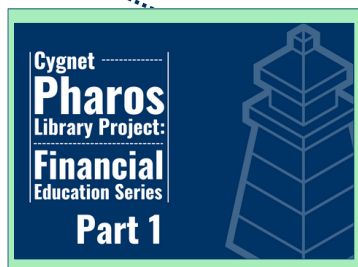
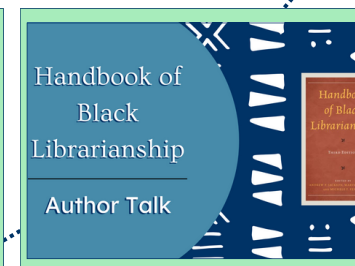
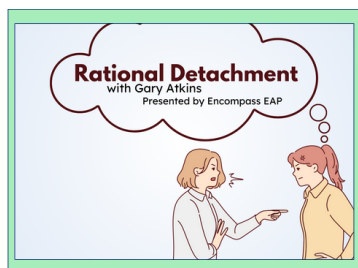
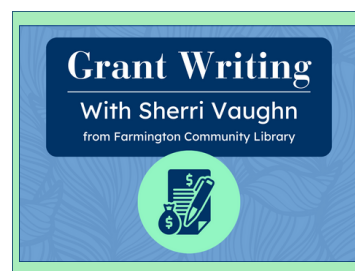
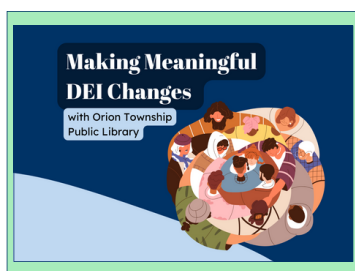
Up from last year, 32 library employees descended on Detroit to walk with The Library Network in Motor City Pride. Our representation in the parade reminds the LGBT+ community and their allies that libraries are for everyone and celebrate their identities.



TLN Engagement Programming



TLN hosted more virtual webinars in 2024, highlighting a variety of topics. Each topic is designed to help teach, inspire, or help library staff. Webinars include ideas for programming, resources for the public, mental health resources, and more. Join us for more webinars upcoming at tln.org/specialevents. Each webinar from 2024 and past years are available for watching at tln.org/youtube.



Catch Up

Each webinar from 2024 and past years are available for watching at tln.org/youtube.

Book and Author Society



In 2024, TLN acquired the Book and Author Society, the long-standing organization hosting author events throughout Metro Detroit. Since 1972, the society has been continuing its mission in bringing authors and readers together. The Library Network is proud to continue the work and revitalize author events.



book &
author
society

bookandauthor.org

Check It Out! with The Library Network



In 2024, TLN's Reciprocal Borrowing Committee was able to successfully write a new reciprocal borrowing agreement that a majority of libraries signed onto, called Check It Out! with The Library Network. This agreement reinforces patrons ability to walk into each TLN library and borrow materials as if they were a patron of that library. The agreement helps clarify rule for patrons throughout Southeast Michigan so they can know what to expect when going to each library. A large thank you to those on the Reciprocal Borrowing Committee who volunteered to work on this project!

100+ locations

Use your TLN library card

stop in and checkout books



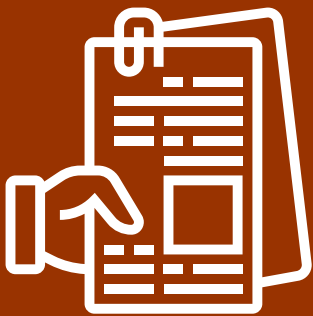
Read More

Find out if your library is a part of the Check It Out! with The Library Network program: tln.org/checkitout

Shared Automated System Statistics



Libraries who have joined the Shared Automated System (SAS) all benefit from a shared catalog and their patrons benefit from requesting materials quickly from any participating library throughout the cooperative.



1,115,701

total number of
bibliographic title
records in the
database



402,724

total number of patrons

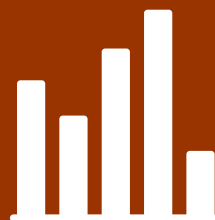
3,865,520

total number
of items in
the shared
database



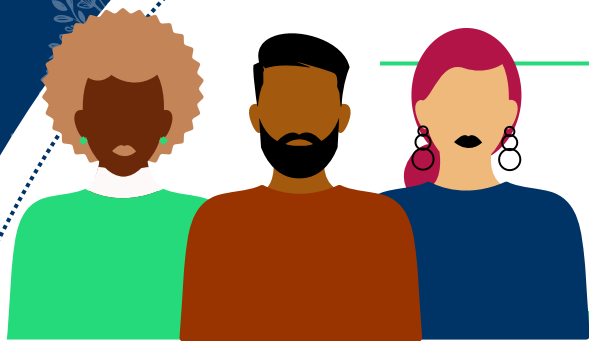
3,980,481

total annual
circulation
(not including
renewals)



405,026

highest one month
circulation



Acquisitions & Cataloging

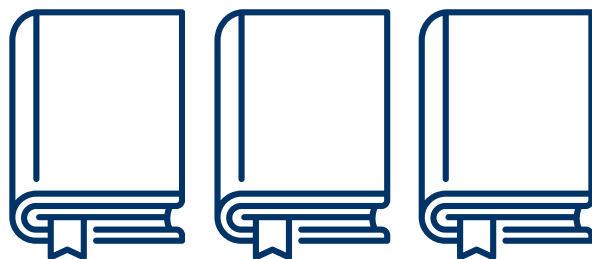


62,217

number of
bibliographic records
loaded into shared
automation system by
cataloging department
this fiscal year



36 number of acquisitions
order lists produced



25,000

number of titles
included on 36
acquisitions order lists

Collection Development List

Use our Collection Development
Lists to curate your collection
here: tln.org/bibz



Download Destination



TLN Download Destination member libraries have been providing readers 24/7 access to eBooks and eAudiobooks for several years through Libby, the OverDrive reading app, or via web browser on the Download Destination website. Download Destination offers access to OverDrive eBooks, eAudiobooks, eVideo and eMagazines.

2,081,535

number of libby download destination checkouts



\$450k

committed by the 56 member libraries towards purchasing shared digital content



90k

unique users



33k

new users



51,476

ebook titles



111,243

ebook copies



18,821

audiobook titles



47,251

audiobook copies



5,729

emagazine titles and copies

Use The Collection

Access Download Destination's collection through the Libby app at: tln.org/overdrive

Shared System Trainings



SAS Training Classes Offered

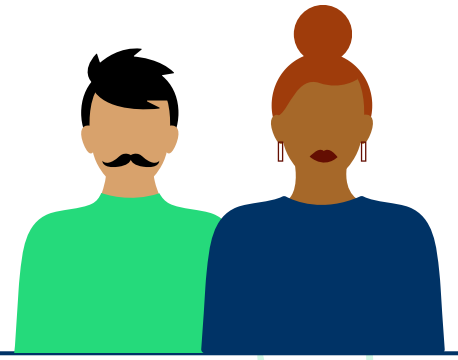


99
Participants

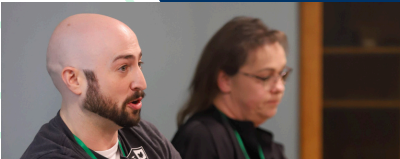
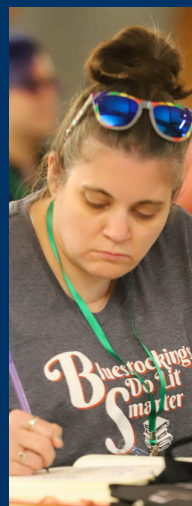
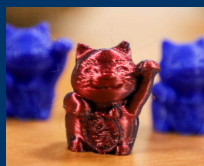
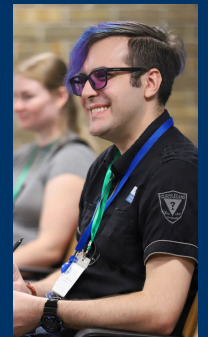
Total Attendees of Shared
Automation System Classes

Our Shared System trainings help to provide staff of libraries with the tools they need for reports, item maintenance, serials and more!

Tech Forum 2024



With 2024's conference focused on Building Tech Savvy Communities, this year's Tech Forum highlighted informing, teaching, and learning with tracks for tech experts and novices.



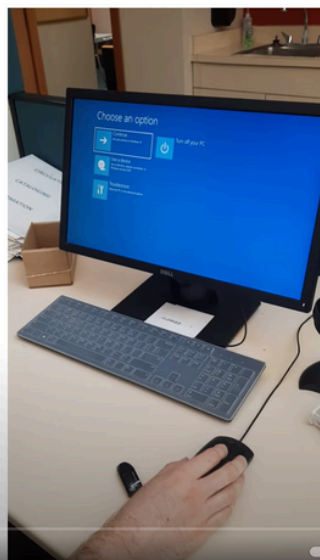
Crisis Management



TLN Staff handled 2 crisis events in 2024. During each, our response team addressed issues that arose at libraries and at the TLN Office to resolve matters swiftly.

Crowdstrike Outage

The Crowdstrike outage of 2024 will be remembered as a global event that took down computers in every industry. TLN Staff worked to address the issue with a work-around, creating a video tutorial for library staff to watch on how to address the issue. Phone calls and visits were also used to further assist those who needed help.



WAN Outage

The outage over Veterans' Day 2024 was a Wide Area Network (WAN) outage, causing loss of internet, phone, and catalog usage at the TLN office and many member libraries. The outage was a result of an outage with AT&T in the Downtown Detroit area and TLN staff worked furiously to address the problem for all impacted.

Partner Organizations



Providing statewide advocacy for libraries in the fight against censorship, TLN is a proud sponsor and partner of MI Right to Read, “Protecting the right to read in Michigan.” Join the effort at MIRightToRead.com

TLN is a proud sponsor of MLA and their work, functioning as the association pushing for advocacy, education, and leadership for libraries and librarianship in Michigan. Find out more at MILibraries.org



We are also thankful that the co-ops have continued their long-standing contribution to promoting and funding the statewide Michigan Activity Pass (MAP) program.



TLN.org



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The
Library
Network



[@TheLibraryNetwork](https://www.facebook.com/TheLibraryNetwork)



[@TheLibraryNetwork](https://www.instagram.com/TheLibraryNetwork)



[@TheLibraryNetworkTLN](https://www.youtube.com/TheLibraryNetworkTLN)

