



The Library Network

Annual Report

2025

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Table of Contents

Page 3
Letter from the
Executive Director

Page 4
Board of Trustees

Page 5
Staff Celebrations

Page 6
Remembering
Former Deputy
Director Douglas
Whitaker

Page 7
Remembering Those
We Lost in Early
2026

Page 8
Money at Work

Page 9
New Libraries Join
The Library Network

Page 10
New Truck Design

Page 11
Gleaners Food for
Thought Campaign

Page 12
Michigan Activity
Pass Statistics

Page 13
MAP Transportation
Services

Page 14
AllOne Health

Page 15
SubShift

Page 16
TLN's RFID Project

Page 17
AMH RFP Results

Page 18
Steering Committee

Page 19
Empathy Studio

Page 20
Responding to
Executive Orders

Page 21
TLN Engagement
Programming

Page 22
Hockey Night with
TLN & SLC

Page 23
The James Pletz
Memorial Annual
Membership
Luncheon

Page 24
Communities

Page 25
TLN @ Motor City
Pride

Page 26
EDI Committee

Page 27
This Conference is
for Everyone

Page 28
Edmund Fitzgerald
Events

Page 29
Book and Author
Society

Page 30
Shared Automated
System Statistics

Page 31
Acquisitions &
Cataloging

Page 32
Download
Destination

Page 33
Shared System
Trainings

Page 34
Technology
Services

Page 35
Technology
Projects

Page 36
Tech Forum 2025

Page 37
Partner
Organizations

Letter from the Executive Director

This year was a challenging continuation of the work that libraries do for the public. TLN stood with libraries as our services and work were dragged into dehumanizing politics. More importantly we held fast to the principle that libraries should offer "Something for Everyone."



As we persist, I encourage everyone to plan time to connect with others who will strengthen your sense of community. Likewise, I hope that libraries will continue to be places to both celebrate the humanity of each individual, and spaces to connect within our communities. We can be a respectful part of moving conversations and understanding forward.

If TLN can assist with your work to build communities, please do not hesitate to let me know how we may contribute. Our mission continues to be to create a vibrant, collaborative partnership among our libraries, driving access to shared services and resources for the benefit the libraries and their users.

This year the TLN Steering Committee, representing all TLN libraries, embraced giving voice to the membership. In reviewing input from our member survey, the committee was able to craft a strategic plan with measurable goals and outcomes. Most significantly they highlighted the need for TLN to foster belonging among our collective communities and library spaces as we continue to find strength as libraries working together.

I hope you enjoy thumbing through the pages of our 2025 Annual Review and find encouragement, as I have, in reflecting on what libraries are able to do through the cooperative.

Sincerely,

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

Board of Trustees



Victor Cardenas
Chair
Class 6 Libraries



Rita VanBrandeghen
Secretary
Shared System Libraries



Lois VanStipdonk
Trustee
Class 6 Libraries



Arthur M. Woodford
Vice Chair
At-Large Representative



Joyce Parker
Treasurer
Class 5 Libraries



Debra Green
Trustee
Class 1,2,3 Libraries



Ebony L. Duff
Trustee
Class 4 Libraries



Kathie Brown
Trustee
Class 6 Libraries



Charles Hanson
Trustee
Class 6 Libraries

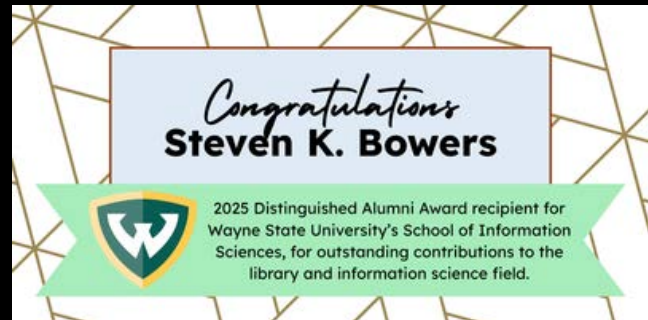
Virtual Meet and Greet

In 2025, the TLN Board hosted their first meet and greet with member libraries, giving them a chance to interact via Zoom.

Staff Celebrations

Distinguished Alum

Executive Director Steven K. Bowers received the 2025 Distinguished Alumni Award from his alma mater, Wayne State University's School of Information Sciences.



Library Love

2025 saw the wedding of TLN's Systems Administrator Cole Bratten to Corey Morgan from Roseville Public Library (SLC). We hope their life together reads like a fairytale.



Library Leaders

This fiscal year, TLN saw the 2024 MLA Leadership Academy graduates, including several TLN member library staff and TLN's very own Lead Cataloger, Janna VanHouten.

Remembering Former Deputy Director Douglas Whitaker

Former Wayne Oakland Library Federation (WOLF) Deputy Director and Wayne County Library System Director Douglas Whitaker passed away April 28, 2025 at the age of 92. At WOLF Doug played an instrumental role in leading the charge towards library automation, which culminated in the implementation of the cooperative's first shared online catalog in 1983. Doug always had the best interests of all libraries in mind, particularly those in communities with funding challenges. He strongly believed in the mantra that the mission of a library cooperative was for all libraries to work together in order to make all library cooperative members the best they could possibly be. Doug was a devoted family man, husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather and was known for his meticulous skills in the landscaping and gardening realms. A number of current TLN staff were either interviewed or hired, or both, by Doug and they enjoyed sharing their fond memories of him.



Remembering Those We Lost in Early 2026

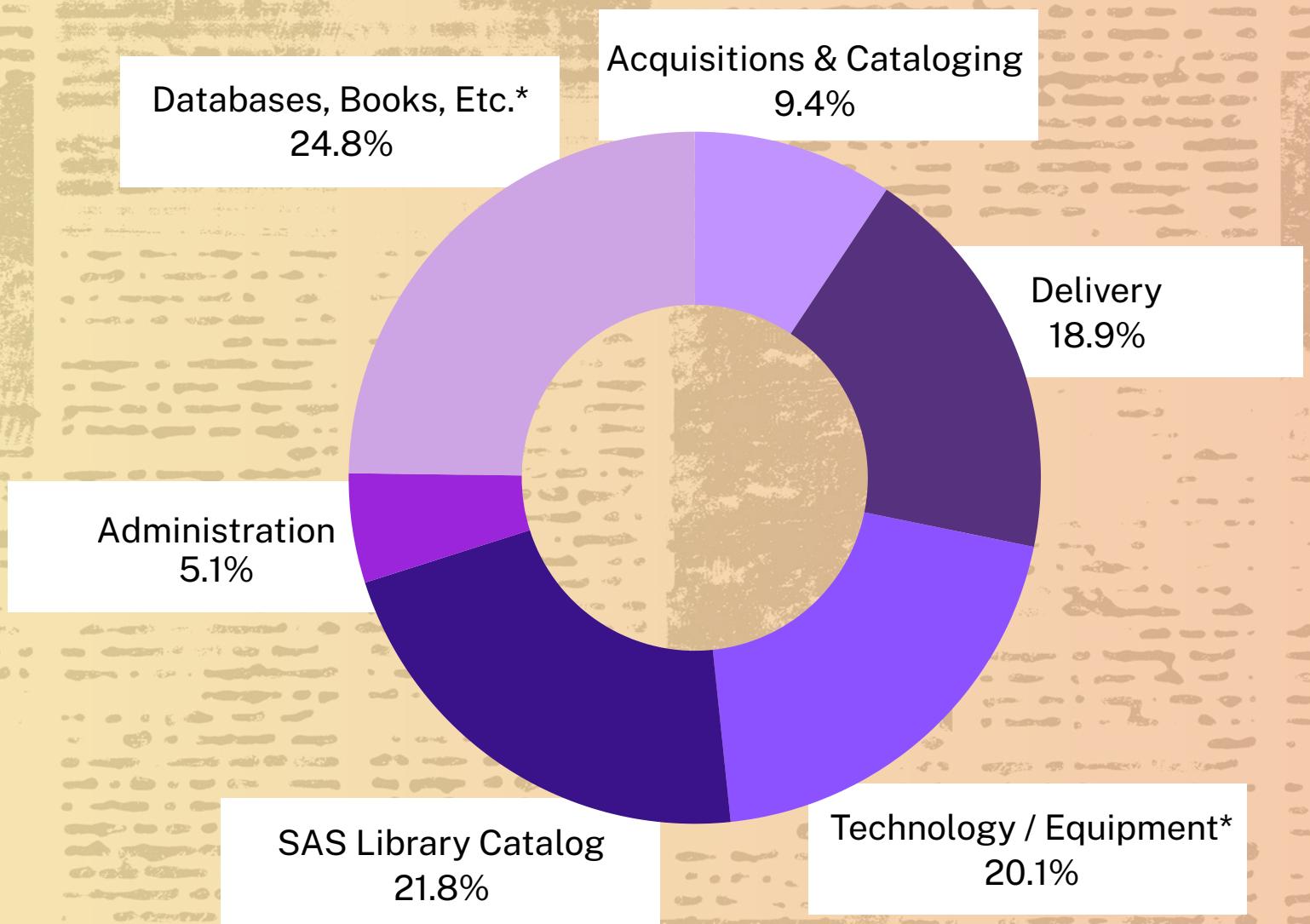
Retired Receptionist Jerilyn M. Lobb passed away on January 3, 2026 at the age of 83. She was known as a staple of TLN for over 30 years, retiring in 2024, working in many departments as The Library Network evolved through the years. Many who walked through TLN's office remember Jeri's warm face as she was the first person they saw. She is missed as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, friend, and coworker.



The library community collectively mourns the loss of Michigan's State Librarian Randy Riley who passed away suddenly on January 3, 2026 at the age of 63. Randy worked at the Library of Michigan for over 36 years, supporting libraries across the state along with supporting the Michigan Library Association. Randy was known for his kindness and passion. He is missed as a husband, father, brother, son, friend, coworker, and librarian.

Money at Work

In the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year, TLN had a spend of just over \$7 million, which was just shy of \$200k under budget. You can see the percentages below reflecting the spend areas for the year.



*Pass-through dollars billed to libraries.

New Libraries Join The Library Network

TLN is continuing to grow with the addition of two new libraries into our cooperative! We are thrilled to welcome Holly Township Library out of Holly, MI and Capital Area District Library, serving Ingham and parts of Eaton County. With their additions, TLN now serves 8 counties in Michigan.

Fast Facts:

Holly District Library

Location: Holly, MI

Staff Size: 10

Service Area: Village of Holly, Holly Township, Groveland Township, and Rose Township

County: Oakland



Fast Facts:

Capital Area District Library

Branches: Aurelius, Dansville, Downtown Lansing, Foster, Haslett, Holt - Delhi, Leslie, Mason, Okemos, South Lansing, Stockbridge, Webberville, and Williamston.

Staff Size: Over 200

Counties: Ingham, Eaton

New Truck Design

This year saw the newest truck design added to the fleet with the “Something for Everyone” design. Utilizing the people imagery used throughout last year for TLN’s various initiatives to showcase the diversity of library users, the image reminds people that there should be something found in libraries for every person.



This truck also came with TLN as we went to MLA’s Advocacy Day at the State Capital in Lansing.

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.

\$1,633.22
dollars

donated between all
participating libraries and TLN



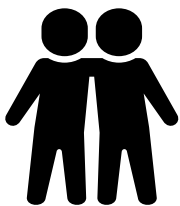
3,489
pounds

of food donated between all
participating libraries and TLN



\$1,633.22
doubled

funds donated during the
campaign were matched by the
Harold and Kay Estate



12,417
meals

provided to hungry neighbors
throughout Southeast Michigan
through the campaign



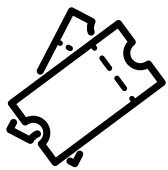
In addition, libraries worked with Gleaners to collect food in response to the Federal Government shutdown of 2025. At this time, we do not have the numbers for this event as it is ongoing.

Michigan Activity Pass Statistics



MICHIGAN
ACTIVITY PASS

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



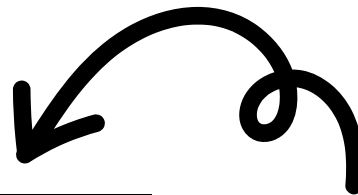
23,809 passes

checked out through
MAP during the TLN
fiscal year
(May 2024 - May
2025)



31% increase

compared to May 2023 -
May 2024



MAP on WDIV

For spring break, WDIV did an interview with Executive Director Steven K. Bowers and Communications and Member Engagement Manager DJ Bond

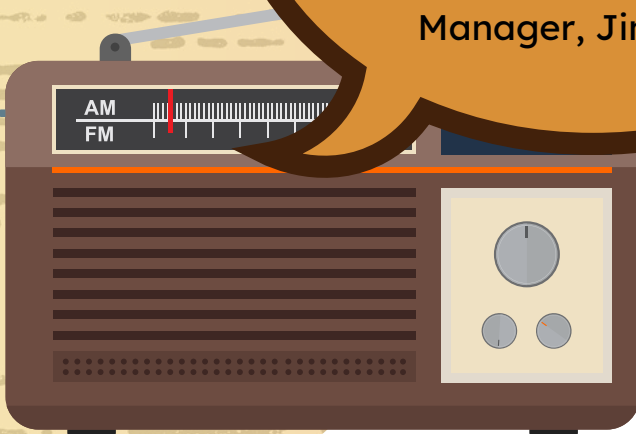
MAP Transportation Services

From July to September, MAP partnered with Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency to help provide transportation to MAP destinations for people over 60+ and a guest.



MICHIGAN
ACTIVITY PASS

TLN helped to promote this initiative through several methods such as print and digital promotions, news articles, and even a radio interview with our very own Technical Services Manager, Jim Flury!



TLN received funding from United Healthcare to make all of this possible



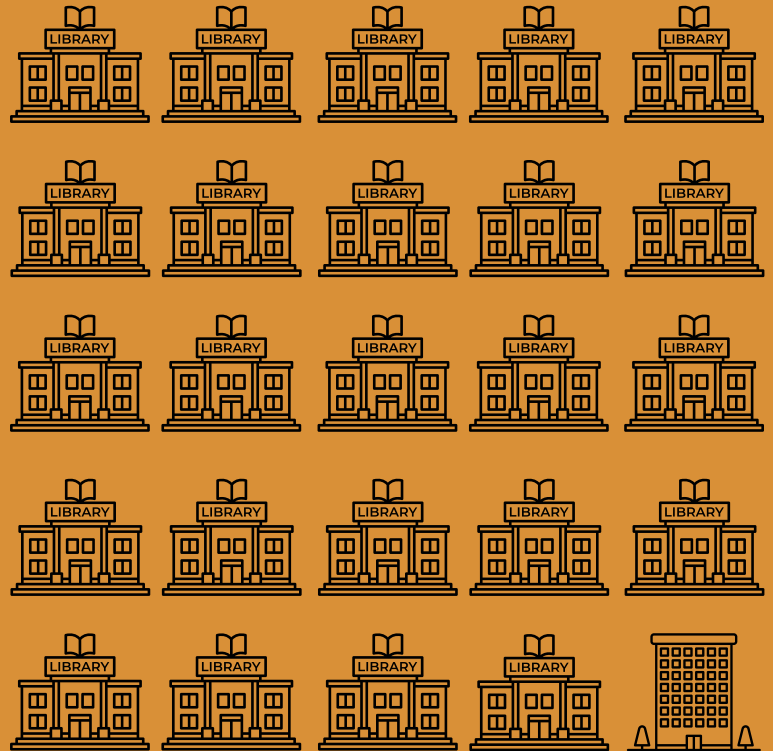
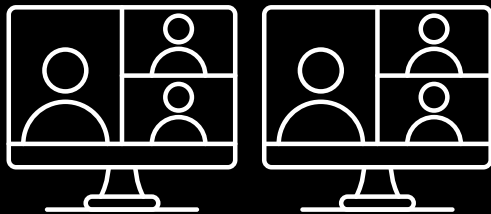
Wayne Metropolitan
Community Action Agency
Established 1971

TLN partnered with Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency to help provide the transportation to MAP destinations. They even offered to drive people to the libraries to get library cards!

AllOne Health

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

2 webinars
hosted by Encompass
EAP's therapists live



25
libraries
covered plus the TLN office

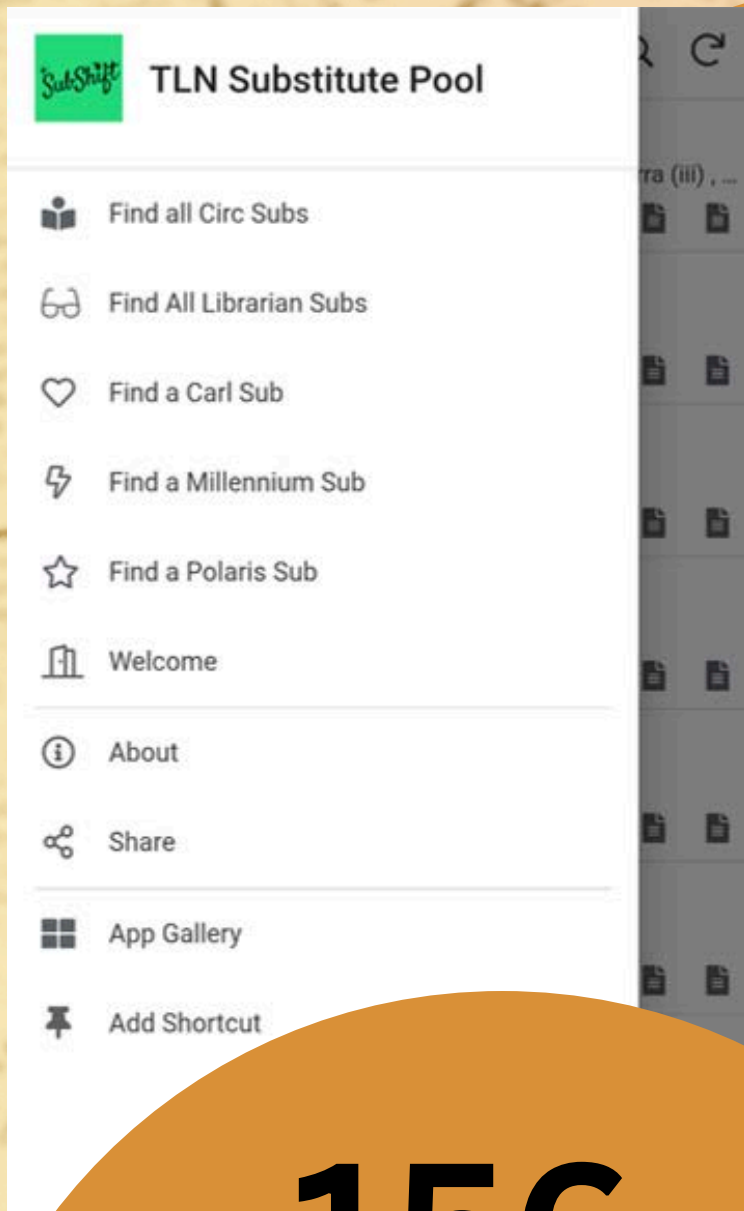
715
people
covered through the EAP

Learn More

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

tln.org/eap

SubShift



New to TLN, the app SubShift is the long-awaited result of the Substitute Pool Services first steps to make it easier for libraries to find substitute librarians and other subs. Kelly Bennett, the Contract Services Coordinator has developed the beta app for managers and potential subs to begin using.

Over **156** Profiles
34 Managers

TLN's RFID Project

Last fiscal year saw the beginning of the RFID project, tagging library books across the cooperative. A lot of progress has been made as we work to maximize access to library materials.

12 people
tagging at
libraries

Don - Lorne - Allison
Larry - Karl - Amy
Jason - Harper - Mike
Terry - Christopher - Neil

11 library
buildings
completed
with tagging
through TLN
staff

Keep Up with The Project

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

786,637 tags
added to books and materials untagged
 $\frac{3}{4}$ complete

AMH RFP Results

This fall, TLN took a big step forward by issuing an RFP for an Automated Materials Handling (AMH) System—a game-changer that will boost delivery sorting speed, efficiency, and accuracy while reducing repetitive manual tasks and speeding up turnaround time for interlibrary loan (ILL) materials. A cross-functional team of TLN staff dove into the five AMH proposals we received and recommended Envisionware as the winning vendor to the TLN Board of Trustees. In December, the Board gave the green light, and we moved forward with contract negotiations.

Huge thanks to Kelly Bennett, Steve Bowers, Damon Dye, Don Farhat, John Inman, Lorne Kilgore, Vince Nash, and Rick Rosekrans for their hard work putting together the RFP and evaluating the proposals. We're thrilled to kick off this monumental project!

Winning Vendor

Envisionware

Target Completion Date

by Oct. 2026



Steering Committee

TLN's Steering Committee is made up of 7 library directors who serve 2-year terms, dedicated to providing guidance for the direction of the cooperative. Recently, the Steering Committee has accomplished goals to help TLN plan long-term for the future.

Strategic Framework

2025 saw adjustments to TLN's mission along with a complete Strategic Framework crafted by Steering and approved by the TLN Board. This framework outlines 7 goals that TLN will be working towards completing in the years to come.

Membership Survey

In 2024, TLN's Steering Committee finalized a survey that went out to the full membership asking about what they hoped to get out of a cooperative. The survey took months of planning and in 2025 provided an outlook on the areas of focus for TLN.

Learn More

Read more about the Strategic Framework on our website:
tln.org/framework

Empathy Studio

In 2025, TLN offered the opportunity for libraries to help support providing Empathy Studios to all TLN libraries. Empathy Studios has "online de-escalation training for staff who interact with individuals experiencing homelessness."



Training access
provided for all
TLN libraries

156
Videos available

Over **64**
hours of content

Access available
through Niche
Academy

Responding to Executive Orders

In 2025, libraryland experienced much upheaval as Executive Orders attacked the Institute of Museum and Library Services, terminated Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden, and threatened Michigan eLibrary. The Library Network issued statements condemning these actions, shared articles from others speaking on these issues, all while working with partners like the Michigan Library Association to address these events.

Monday, February 10, 2025

With Regard to Recent Federal Decisions

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Joint Statement on IMLS from Michigan Libraries, Museums, and Archives

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Lakeland Library Cooperative on What Loss of IMLS Could Mean for MI Libraries

Monday, March 24, 2025

Michigan Libraries, Museums Brace for Loss of Federal Funds

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Libraries Call for Action to Save IMLS

Monday, April 7, 2025

Attorney General Nessel Sues Trump Administration to Protect Libraries and Museums

Monday, April 7, 2025

Royal Oak: Federal Cuts Impacting Libraries

Friday, May 9, 2025

TLN Is Disheartened by Firing of Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden

Friday, May 9, 2025

Advocates 'encouraged' by ruling to stop federal cuts to program for libraries, museums

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Federal Judge in Rhode Island Orders Halt to Unconstitutional Dismantling of Library Agency

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

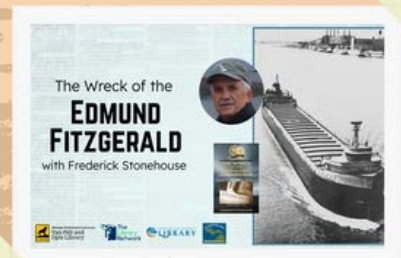
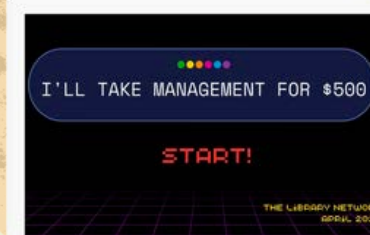
Former Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden Speaks Out on her Firing by Trump

Keep up

More news at
tlm.org/news

TLN Engagement Programming

2025 saw an increase of webinars with 31 recorded videos publicly available on YouTube. Join us for more upcoming webinars and events at tln.org/specialevents. Webinars from 2025 and past years are available for watching at tln.org/youtube.



Since launch in 2023

515 hours watched
5.9k collective views
93 subscribers

Don't forget to rate,
review, and subscribe!

Catch Up

Webinars from 2025 and past years are available for watching at tln.org/youtube.

Hockey Night with TLN & SLC

January 2025 saw excitement as TLN and SLC teamed up for a Hockey Night. At Big Boy Arena, the Motor City Rockers played the Port Huron Prowlers with support from the two cooperatives. A fun social event bringing library staff together!



The James Pletz Memorial Annual Membership Luncheon

An annual tradition, the James Pletz Memorial Annual Membership Luncheon is an opportunity for library staff from across TLN to come together and spend an afternoon connecting. This year featured a presentation from Erin Luetz from Ferndale Area District Library on the Metis System they used to replace the Dewey Decimal System in their Youth Department to provide better access.



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 catch up 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.



Powers of the (In)Visible Voices

2025 began the newest community, the Powers of the (In)Visible Voices. This space is for those who identify as having a disability, including but not limited to individuals with physical disabilities, neurodivergency, cognitive disabilities, emotional disabilities & mental illness, sensory disabilities, and any undiagnosed disabilities.



TLN @ Motor City Pride



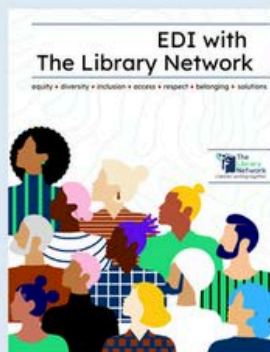
Up from last year, 50 library employees & loved ones descended on Detroit to walk with The Library Network in Motor City Pride. Our representation in the parade reminds the LGBTQIA+ community and their allies that libraries are for everyone and we celebrate their identities.



EDI Committee

In 2025, TLN's EDI Committee rose to the occasion. As politicians attempted to brand Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as "woke" or discriminatory, the EDI Committee showcased how these principles help to include all people at the table. From launching their first newsletter to starting the first EDI Conference: This Conference Is For Everyone, the committee reminded us that the work libraries do to service their communities touches on DEI work, regardless of what they call it.

Additionally, TLN's DJ Bond and Riverview Veterans Memorial Library's Azita Frattarelli from the EDI Committee both presented at the 2025 Michigan Library Association's Annual Conference on Why You Need a DEI Statement Like ASAP. This presentation showed that by making a DEI statement and defining it for your organization, you reclaim the narrative around this work.



**why
you need
a DEI statement
like ASAP**

with DJ Bond and Azita Frattarelli
From TLN's EDI Committee

This Conference is for Everyone

TLN's first EDI Conference, titled This Conference is for Everyone, was a success as 52 library staff came together to discuss topics and what they can do in the lens of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion to help improve patron experiences.



Edmund Fitzgerald Events

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald, TLN hosted two events in conjunction with Superiorland Library Cooperative, Portage Lake District Library, and Michigan Technological University's Van Pelt and Opie Library. Author and Historian Fred Stonehouse joined us on a webinar with over 200 viewers and watch parties across libraries in Michigan. The online presentation was followed up with an in-person event hosted at MTU, which saw 75 people in attendance.

The Wreck of the **EDMUND FITZGERALD** with Frederick Stonehouse



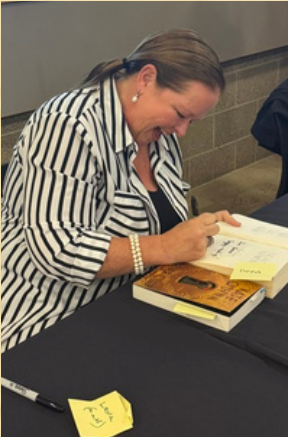
200 Zoom accounts joined for the webinar

75 People joined for the in-person event

Book and Author Society



bookandauthor.org



In 2024, TLN took on stewardship of the Book & Author Society, the long-standing organization hosting author events throughout Metro Detroit. Since then, TLN formed a committee to continue the work of the society and this year held the first TLN hosted author talk with Historical Fiction Author Kate Quinn, known for titles like *The Rose Code* and *The Briar Club*. The event was a great success with over 450 guests.



Shared Automated System Statistics

Libraries who participate in the Shared Automated System (SAS) all benefit from a shared library 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
registered patrons

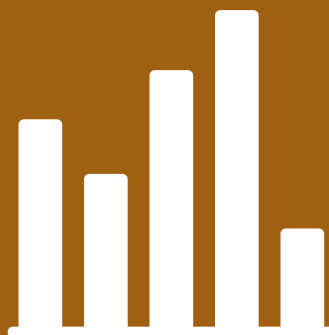
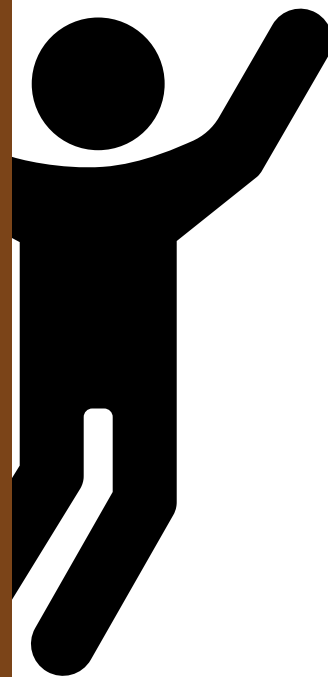
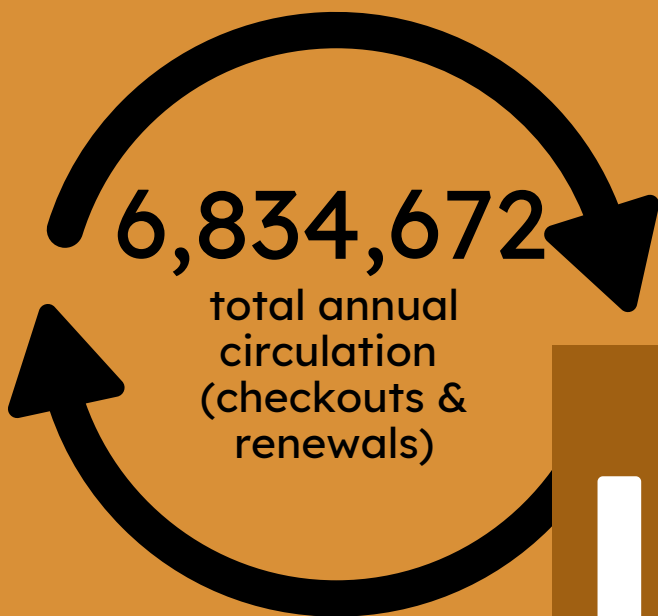
3,865,520

total number of
items in
the shared
database



6,834,672

total annual
circulation
(checkouts &
renewals)



662,895

highest one month
circulation
transactions

Acquisitions & Cataloging

Our Acquisitions and Cataloging departments work hard to provide resources and support for each library's collection development needs.

25,750

number of titles
included on 36
acquisitions order lists

36 number of acquisitions
order lists produced

Collection Development Lists

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

50,223

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

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, eVideos and eMagazines.

51,418
ebook titles

114,203
ebook copies

20,948
audiobook titles

54,994
audiobook copies

6,242
emagazine titles
unlimited access

A

2,293,612

number of libby download destination checkouts this year

\$505k

committed by the 58 member libraries towards purchasing shared digital content

105k

unique users

39k

new users

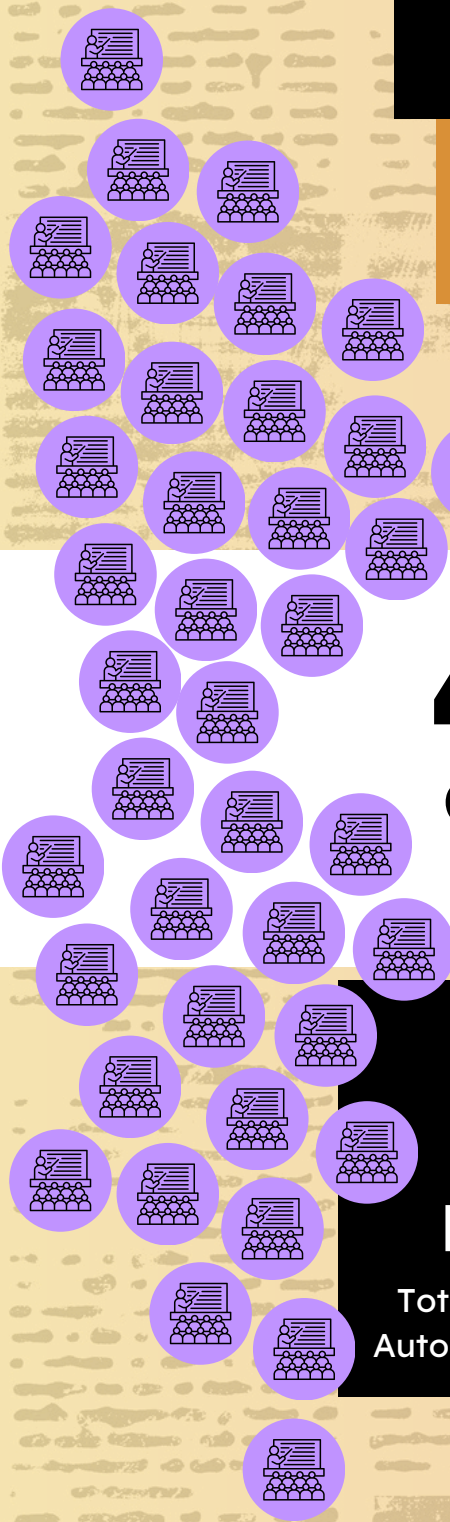
Use The Collection

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



Shared System Trainings

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



41
Classes

SAS Training
Classes Offered

91
Participants

Total Attendees of Shared
Automation System Classes



Technology Services

312

Brand New Items

installed by TLN at
libraries including:

TLN's Technology Services include providing support and helping with procurement to member libraries, both in and outside of TLN's member libraries. In 2025, libraries took advantage of these services in the following ways:

2 
Printers

265 
Laptops &
Computers

3 
Phones

6 
UPS Battery
Backup

14 
Monitors

6 
iPads

1 
Servers

3 
Access
Points

2 
NAS

2 
Firewalls

8 
Switches

24 
Cameras

\$600k Spent

in equipment orders from
libraries across the entire state.

1,388 Hours

of PC Support used by
libraries during the fiscal year

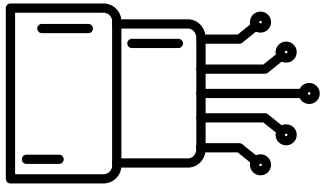
Tech Services

Check out what services
your library can use at
tln.org/technology.

Technology Projects

Outside of regular tasks, our Tech Team at TLN provided support with projects that helped the greater library system as a whole.

71



Fiber Internet Circuits

installed at 70 locations (68 libraries, 2 at TLN, 1 city hall) for the switchover to AT&T Switched Ethernet On Demand (ASEoD), allowing for easy bandwidth upgrades. TLN Techs went to 70 library locations to connect routers using single-mode fiber lines.

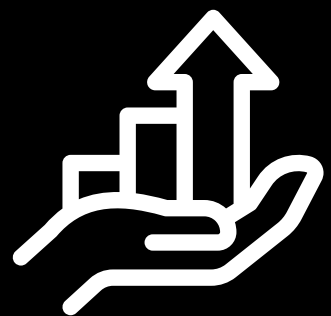
CARL on OCI

The TLN shared catalog system, CARL, was moved to the Oracle Cloud Infrastructure.



35

Libraries



assisted by TLN in Windows 11 upgrades to their computers in 2025 as Windows 10 became obsolete.

Tech Forum 2025

2025's conference highlighted The Human Side of Artificial Intelligence: Decoding AI Without Losing Your Humanity. Speakers included Aaron Baughman, AI Strategist with Michigan Virtual and Dr. Kate Bowers Professor and Director of Teaching Excellence Center of the School of Engineering and Computer Science at Oakland University.



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 MLibraries.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.



The Library Network



TLN.org



(248) 536-3100



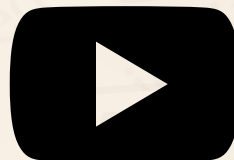
41365 Vincenti Court
Novi, MI 48375



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



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



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