

Michigan Cooperative Directors Association  
Report for Library of Michigan Board of Trustees  
January 2021

**Detroit Library Cooperative – JoAnne Mondowney, Director**

- Cultural Center Planning Initiative: Detroit Cultural Center Planning Initiative (CCPI) is an 18-month planning process that aims to reimagine a more vibrant and connective cultural district for the city of Detroit. The CCPI was awarded a one-year grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation to help implement a comprehensive digital strategy, including installation of free, outdoor public Wi-Fi in 2021 through the Cultural Center. Currently, Main Library is the only Cultural Center institution offering free Wi-Fi beyond its walls. The plan also calls for the development of pop-up video screens tied to institutional programming, along with a series of workshops for stakeholder institutions like DPL that will focus on the creation of new digital programming experiences. The public is invited to provide feedback by visiting [ccpi.online](http://ccpi.online).
- A Virtual Conversation: DPL will present a virtual conversation, “The African American Presence in the Northwest Territory,” at 6p.m., Tuesday, February 9, 2021. Chuck Stokes, WXYZ-Channel 7, editorial director and member of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Society of Michigan, will moderate the conversation. Two scholars will participate: Dr. Anna-Lisa Cox, author of *The Bone and Sinew of the Land: America’s Forgotten Pioneers and the Struggle for Equality*, and Dr. Michelle S. Johnson, former coordinator of the Freedom Trails for the state of Michigan and an African American history scholar. This free online event is in partnership with the 400 Years of African American History Commission. Register at [www.detroitpubliclibrary.org](http://www.detroitpubliclibrary.org).
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten: Families participating in the “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten” program can now track their books digitally with Beanstack. This program challenges parents to share 1,000 books with their child before he or she enters school. Reading “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten” helps children develop critical early literacy skills from birth that will prepare them to enter kindergarten.
- Book Packs for Children: A new component of the Library’s curbside pick-up program is “Librarian’s Choice.” Parents fill out a form available on the Library’s website that describes the children’s interests, grade level and a preferred branch pick up location. The form goes to TIP which forwards it to the branch’s children’s librarian will process the request and contact the family when books are available. At this point, this program is only for children’s materials, but could eventually be expanded to service adults.

**Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative – Eric Palmer, Director**

- MMLC reinstated the Innovation and Technology grants and offered a COVID-19 grant for all members of the Cooperative.
- Eric helped guide the Shiawassee District Library (SDL) Board through the process of hiring a new director. After two rounds of interviews, Kimberly White, former branch manager from the Public Libraries of Saginaw, was hired and started on January 4, 2021.
- Eric has been working on bring Tutor.com to a few of the libraries in the cooperative, using the pricing set up with TLN.

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**Lakeland Library Cooperative – Carol Dawe, Director**

- LLC now has 82 locations with the addition of the new Kent District Library Ada Branch which will open soon. The North Branch of the Herrick District Library and the Muskegon Township Branch of the Muskegon Area District Library have gone under extensive renovations and will open as soon as COVID-19 restrictions allow.
- LLC is beginning the implementation of Bibliocore as our public access catalog with a go live date of June 1<sup>st</sup>. This will enable library users within Lakeland to access the 40 Lakeland libraries, Kent District Library and the Grand Rapids Public Library integrated library systems with the goal of linking all 3 catalogs later in 2021.
- We are pleased to welcome Lisa Harmon as the new director of the Fruitport District Library and Katie Singer as the new director of the Dorr and Hopkins Libraries.
- We continue to provide group purchases for PPE and other resources, products and subscriptions.
- Many libraries continue to offer curbside and others are open at limited capacity.

**Mid-Michigan Library League – Sheryl Mase, Director**

- Currently, some MMLL member libraries are open at a limited capacity for indoor service, and most are doing curbside service of some type.
- Grants: The FY21 Grants Committee awarded grants to 17 member libraries in the first round of the FY21 Library Service Enhancement & Mini-Grant Program, for a total commitment of \$10,949. The second round will be announced February 1<sup>st</sup>, with another \$12,000 available, thanks to the increase in state aid.
- Tech Assistance: “Emergency Geek” Cory Walker will continue serving member libraries in FY21. Each MMLL member library has four hours of tech support plus mileage.
- Member Libraries: Cadillac Wexford Public Library is hoping to fill their full-time children’s librarian position. They are actively interviewing. Reed City Area District Library no longer serves Hersey Township as they have withdrawn from the district, making their residents unserved.

**Northland Library Cooperative – Linda Adams, Director**

- Reopening Libraries: Most of the NLC libraries have reopened, though some have needed to close due to exposures. Despite ongoing COVID-19-related issues and stress, door counts and circulation numbers are growing. A shared document with service level updates is available on the NLC website.
- An amended budget was approved at the December board meeting, reinstating services and increasing enhancement grants to members.
- Directors: NLC welcomed new directors in Interlochen and Indian River.

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**Southwest Michigan Library Cooperative – Andrea Estelle, Director**

- SMLC libraries are currently operating in a mix of models: closed, curbside, curbside plus appointments, and limited capacity.
- The new Board for 2021 was chosen and Director Stephanie Masin from the Maud Preston Palenske Memorial Library (St. Joseph) will serve as the new SMLC President.
- 2021 training focuses will be HR, marketing, and Director-Board relationships. A goal for this winter is to review and update the SMLC by-laws and plan of service but having a hard time getting volunteers, may need to wait a bit on this.
- I hope to get back to visiting our cooperative's libraries this spring but plan to wait until libraries are open in full capacity.

**Suburban Library Cooperative – Tammy Turgeon, Director**

- The Cooperative continues to purchase PPE for its member libraries.
- The Strategic Planning process is almost complete. A plan will be presented to the Council and Board in the next few months.
- The Suburban Library Cooperative launched its shared library marketing campaign this week. **Libraries: Your Bridge to the World** will provide a press release and two social media posts for member libraries to use to promote their library and services. The program is designed to be easy for members to implement with a monthly theme to highlight a specific service or event. The Cooperative is working with the consultant that helped to implement the [golibrarycard.org](http://golibrarycard.org) program.
- Suburban and TLN have joined with the Metro Parks to provide area libraries with 100 Wi-Fi hotspots to assist residents that do not have Internet access. The costs for service will be covered for one year by the Metro Parks.
- The Suburban Library Cooperative continues to provide administrative support for the Metro Detroit Book & Author Society's new virtual winter author series. Authors have been scheduled for February and March and include Mary Doria Russell, Rochelle Riley and Brad Taylor.

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**Superiorland Library Cooperative – Shawn Andary, Director**

- New Directors: Thea Murray is the new director of the Alanson Library, and the Spies Public Library has hired Blair Nelson as their new director.
- The Crystal Falls District Community Library has started a UP Notable Book Group using Zoom and their first discussion was the *Marsh King's Daughter*.
- The Cooperative has hired a new Network Administrator and are still looking to fill another full time IT Specialist position.
- Menominee County Library is partnering with several township halls to provide Wi-Fi access to the public.
- The Superiorland Library Cooperative is resuming “Lunch Bunch” Zoom meetings on a variety of topics starting with an overview of RLA.

**The Library Network (TLN) – Steven K. Bowers, Director**

- TLN Operations: Administrative staff members continue to work five days a week in the office. Much of the other departmental office staff are working a combination of days at home and on site. Technology support is still making site visits to member libraries. Sorting and delivery are busy as ever as we are still seeing an uptick in requesting for libraries in the TLN shared system.
- Member Planning: The TLN Steering Committee is forming a sub-committee to review the TLN Mission and to gather input from the TLN membership for identifying a TLN Vision and priorities for strategic planning initiatives and goals. Member follow-up from the fall 2020 survey from the TLN Steering Committee is ongoing. The committee has also begun planning for a TLN Membership meeting in March.
- Pandemic Planning: TLN sponsored a webinar for the membership and employees titled “Mindful Stress Resilience: Riding the COVID Coaster.” The session was presented by Casey Coker, a healthcare professional, with over 100 people attending live. The TLN library directors are meeting bi-weekly to catch up, opposite weeks that Library of Michigan holds meetings. The TLN Pandemic Resources page was made available in November (<https://tln.lib.mi.us/covid/>). The site includes a link to the Member Library Services Updates document for tracking operations during the pandemic(<https://tln.lib.mi.us/covid/operations/>).
- New Partnership with Metroparks and SLC: TLN and the Suburban Library Cooperative (SLC) have partnered with Metroparks to provide a new Library Wi-Fi Hotspot program pilot with selected member libraries. Metroparks is a regional system of parks in Southeast Michigan, covering Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, Wayne counties. As they are looking to expand their outreach during the pandemic, Metroparks is funding 100 hotspots with a year's subscription of unlimited data streaming to libraries to expand equitable access to online learning and programming. TLN has received 80 hotspots for use by patrons at selected TLN libraries.

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**White Pine Library Cooperative – Kate Van Auken, Director**

- Two libraries, Columbia Township and Brown City, are almost in their new facilities!
- Welcomed new Millington Arbela District Library Director, Sarah Rick in December.
- Still working with a director who has had a group in the community pushing to block erotic literature at their library and in the OverDrive virtual shared collection since early August. The library attorney and I will again attend the next meeting. The group now wants the library to get rid of the Libby app and use the Sora app instead. The Sora app is for schools, not public libraries, but the groups does not seem to fully understand this.
- Negotiating with OverDrive regarding the cost for an annual emagazine collection for White Pine.
- Hoping to work with the other Coop Directors and MLA on a statewide marketing plan. Thanks to Tammy for getting the ball rolling.

**Woodlands Library Cooperative – Kate Pohjola Andrade, Director**

- At the turn of the new year, Woodlands rolled out [tutor.com](https://www.tutor.com) for all fifty of our member libraries. Patrons of all ages can take advantage of live, online tutoring, test prep and career services between 2pm and 9pm, 7 days a week.
- By the end of January, Woodlands will receive shipment of 220 sets of Labor Law Posters destined for libraries all around the state.
- Member library board training continues in the virtual realm and has gone incredibly well, even with family and pet interruptions on my end. I will continue to tweak and refine the process.
- This page on our website, <https://woodlands.lib.mi.us/covid-19/> details the open/closed status of our member libraries.
- With our member committees mostly on hiatus so they can focus on their own libraries, cooperative staff (all two of us) are focusing on the internal workings of the cooperative for the first portion of this year. We hope to nail down a facilitator and start the strategic planning process, update the webpage, and review and if necessary, revise plans and policies using the lens of equity, diversity and inclusion.