

Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative
Director's Report
October 2009

Northland Interim Director:

Roger Mendel has been named the Interim Director for the Northland Library Cooperative. Roger will be performing the director duties from his home in Lapeer or, wherever he is hanging his hat at the time. We wish Roger every success in piloting this new "virtual" directorship.

Library of Michigan: Status basically unchanged from September:

The Governor issued a revised Executive Order which:

- establishes a state librarian position at the Department of Education
- seeks the appointment of someone from the library community to service on this Innovation Reinvention Committee
- indicates that MeL is not in jeopardy
- asserts that the Library of Michigan collection will remain intact

Some would argue that those measures do not go far enough to assure that the Library of Michigan will be able to continue the quality of service that Michigan citizens expect. The current "temporary" budget reduces LoM funding by 10% or just over \$511,000.

State Aid Budget: As of this writing, the State legislature has adopted a "stopgap plan as a temporary measure" which attempts to "maintain critical services while [the legislature] continues to strive for a budget based on the priorities that matter to Michigan families." This "temporary" budget slashes aid from \$10 million to \$4 million, based on a vote of the Education Conference Committee, resulting in a 40% cut to public library funding. However, in late September, Representative Cushingberry told MLA that it is his plan to return library funding to the \$10 million level in the supplemental budget bill.

MMLC Plan of Service: The newly revised plan has been officially approved by Nancy Robertson, State Librarian. The letter of acceptance is on file in the MMLC office.

Workshops: The September workshop on conducting millages was well attended. October brings another popular Black Belt Librarian workshop. In November, a number of What's New with MeL Database Workshops will be offered. Also in November is a special opportunity to attend one of two MeL Readers' Advisory Workshops featuring Duncan Smith, creator of NovelList, a MeL database. Note: The book repair workshop that was scheduled in November has been postponed. To round out the year, a Plinkit Review will be held with Sonya Norris in December.

Thank you: As the incoming MMLC Director, I am grateful to Roger, Irene and the Board for the support during the search and orientation process. It is an understatement to say that I am excited about this opportunity, energized by what the future holds, and dedicated to serving the membership to the best of my ability.