

# History, Arts, and Libraries

## General Overview

This department was created by Public Acts 61-79 of 2001 and includes programs transferred from the Michigan Legislature, the Department of State, the former Department of Consumer and Industry Services, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Michigan Strategic Fund. The department is located in the Library of Michigan and administers the State Library, Michigan Council of Arts and Cultural Affairs, the State Historic Program, the Michigan Film Office, and the Mackinac Island State Park Commission.

## Major Divisions and Programs

**Library of Michigan.** The Library of Michigan is the official library for the State. The Library of Michigan provides reference services to the legislative, judicial, and executive branches of State government. The Library of Michigan also distributes State Aid to Libraries grants, distributes Federal grants pursuant to the Library Services and Technology Act, coordinates interaction between libraries, and provides services to the general public. Collections include over 3.0 million hard cover books and millions of government documents. The Library operates the Michigan eLibrary or MeL, which provides statewide on-line access to library catalogs, collections, and specialized databases. The Library of Michigan also has an extensive newspaper collection on microfilm and is a leading source of genealogy information.

**Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.** This 15-member, Governor-appointed Council distributes grant funding to public and private art institutions throughout the State. The grants are awarded on a competitive basis and are used to fund such things as art organization development, capital improvement projects for local municipalities, artists in schools, rural arts and culture or large institutions that serve a statewide audience, referred to as anchor organizations. Grants are distributed on October 1 of each year. The FY 2007-08 appropriation is \$7,754,000.

**Michigan Historical Program.** The center operates the Michigan Historical Museum and the State Archives in Lansing, as well as other museums and historic sites around the State. Also under the administration of the center are the Michigan History Magazine and the State Archaeology Program. The six-member Michigan Historical Commission was established in 1913 and serves in an advisory capacity.

**Mackinac Island State Park Commission.** This Commission operates the Mackinac State Historic Parks, including Michilimackinac and Historic Mill Creek. The Commission also publishes 50 different historical publications, videos, cassettes and compact disks.

**State Aid to Libraries.** Michigan has been providing funding to public libraries since 1937. The method of distributing State funds to public libraries and library cooperatives was revised in 1977 by Public Act 89 of 1977. The Act created five grant categories for State Aid. Three grants are based on a per-capita distribution and level of service provided, one is based on reimbursement of a portion of a head librarian's salary for county libraries that serve a population of less than 50,000, and one grant is based on \$10 per square mile for area served if the area served has fewer than 75 people per square mile. State aid payments are prorated to the appropriation available, \$10.0 million in FY 2007-08.

**Subregional State Aid.** This appropriation funds 12 public libraries that provide services for the blind and physically handicapped. Funding for Subregional State Aid began in FY 1983-84 with an appropriation of \$140,000. The FY 2007-08 appropriation is \$505,000.

**Michigan Film Office.** The Michigan Film Offices promotes Michigan as a site for film and commercial productions and assists film companies doing business in Michigan. The Office is funded at \$180,300 in FY 2007-08 and received a \$2.0 million appropriation in FY 2005-06 from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Jobs Trust Fund for efforts to promote and bolster the film industry in Michigan.

**Book Distribution Centers.** This line item funds two nonprofit organizations that provide statewide distribution of books obtained free from publishers to children, nursing home residents, inmates, and others.