Belleville Area District Library Board
Regular Meeting Agenda
March 11, 2025 at 7:30 PM

The Belleville Area District Library Board will meet in person in the library's 2nd floor Conference Room.

Agenda:

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call: Cichewicz, Fleming, Hughes-Grubbs, Jackson-Smith, Peters, Priest, Stoudemire
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approve February 11, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes
5. Public Comments
6. Committee Reports
    A. Building-Cichewicz
        a. Proposal for vape detectors
    B. Bylaws-Jackson-Smith
    C. Finance-Stoudemire
    D. Marketing-Hughes-Grubbs
    E. Personnel-Priest
    F. Policy-Fleming
    G. Art
7. Approve Accounts Payable
8. Director's Report/Comments/Communications
9. Trustee Comments
10. Chair Comments
11. Adjournment

Any citizen wishing to provide input or ask questions about any agenda item may speak during the meeting's Public Comments section or forward comments to the Library Director in advance by leaving a message at 734-699-3291 or via the Contact Information found at www.belleville.lib.mi.us. Any citizen requesting accommodation to attend this meeting may contact the library at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, using the above contact information.

Next Regular BADL Board Meeting: April 8, 2025, at 7:30 PM

Belleville Area District Library
Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2025

1. **Call to Order:** Sharon Peters called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm.

2. **Roll Call:** The following board members were present: Sharon Peters, Linda Priest, Tanya Stoudemire, Dan Fleming, Maria Jackson-Smith, and Joy Cichewicz. Also present: Hilary Savage, Library Assistant Director, Nikki Pickeral, Library Assistant. Excused: Alma Hughes-Grubbs, Library Director Mary Jo Suchy

3. **Approve Agenda:** Motion by Stoudemire, seconded by Priest. The motion carried unanimously.

   Priest made an amendment to correct the date for the approval of the regular meeting minutes on the agenda to January 14, 2025. Stoudemire seconded. The amendment carried unanimously.

4. **Approve January 14, 2025, Minutes:** Motion by Cichewicz, seconded by Jackson-Smith to approve the January 14, 2025, minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

5. **Public Comments:** None.

6. **Attorney Letter of Engagement:** Motion by Cichewicz, seconded by Priest to have Mary Jo Suchy move forward with the letter of engagement with Adkison, Need, Allen, & Rentrop. The motion carried unanimously.
   - The letter of engagement is in response to the issue with the Wayne County penal fins. The Library of Michigan encouraged the libraries affected to seek legal counsel.
   - G. Hans Rentrop has experience with libraries and municipalities, including the Romeo District Library, Oak Park Library, and Commerce Township Library.

7. **Committee Reports:** Peters presented the updated committee assignment sheet.
   - Bylaws Committee: Linda Priest will replace John Juriga as chair of the committee.
   - Marketing Committee: Renamed the Outreach Committee. Maria Jackson-Smith will be the chair.
   A. **Building:** Motion by Priest, seconded by Stoudemire, to accept the O'Neal Construction proposal ($37,787) for automatic door operators on all 6 public bathrooms to be paid for with the fund that has been restricted for building use. The motion carried unanimously.
   B. **Bylaws:** No report.

C. **Finance:** Stoudemire presented the 6-month budget. Stoudemire noted several areas where actual amounts are less than budgeted amounts.
D. **Marketing (Outreach):** No report.
E. **Personnel:** No report.
F. **Policy:** No report.
G. **Art:** Michelle Montour gave an update on the Art Committee. John Juriga was replaced by Jackson-Smith. Debbie Juriga was asked to join as another artist. Montour reviewed all of the art pieces in the library that are on loan.

8. **Approve Accounts Payable:** Motion by Stoudemire, seconded by Cichewicz, to approve the accounts payable as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

9. **Director's Report:** See attached.

10. **Trustee Comments:**
    - **Linda Priest:** Mentioned that the library's movie night is this Thursday and are very enjoyable. The current musical series is due to a suggestion from attendees.
    - **Tanya Stoudemire:** Hopes Mary Jo and Alma will feel better soon.
    - **Maria Jackson-Smith:** Enjoyed attending her first Annual Friends Meeting.
    - **Dan Fleming:** Nice to get together in a warm place on a cold night.
    - **Joy Cichewicz:** Is retiring in less than two weeks and hopes to be more involved again. She will not be at the next meeting due to being on a month-long road trip with her husband.

11. **Chair Comments:** Sharon Peters appreciates the board and their flexibility in standing in for each other.

12. **Adjournment:** Motion by Fleming, seconded by Priest, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.

**o'neal
construction inc**

Construction Proposal – Vape Detection In Restrooms

Belleville Area District Library

Proposal Submitted To

Mary Jo Suchy – Director
Belleville Area District Library
167 Fourth Street
Belleville, MI 48111

Project Description

Date: February 21, 2025
Project Address: 167 Fourth Street
Scope of Work: Install vape detection in 6 public restroom locations

Proposal

- o   OCI to provide, install, and wire vape detectors.
- o   Installation includes cat6 ethernet cable from each detector to data closet.
- o   Proposal includes 1-year Triton Cloud License.
    - o   Gives access to Triton cloud dashboard and app (iOS and Android) SMS text and app alerts, easy device management, mass OTA updates, data visualization and insights.
- o   Triton Cloud License is a yearly reoccurring fee of $75 for each device.
- o   Refer to attached product literature from Triton Sensors.
- o   Refer to tritonsensors.com for more information.

Price for above: $10,301.00

Notes:
1) Ethernet cables for each device need internet access – BADL to terminate cables to network equipment for internet access to sync with Triton Cloud License.
2) No permits being obtained from local municipality.

Proposal Submitted By

Matt Ratzow
O'Neal Construction
525 W. William
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Phone (734) 216-5588

X _____   _____
Approved (Signature)   Date
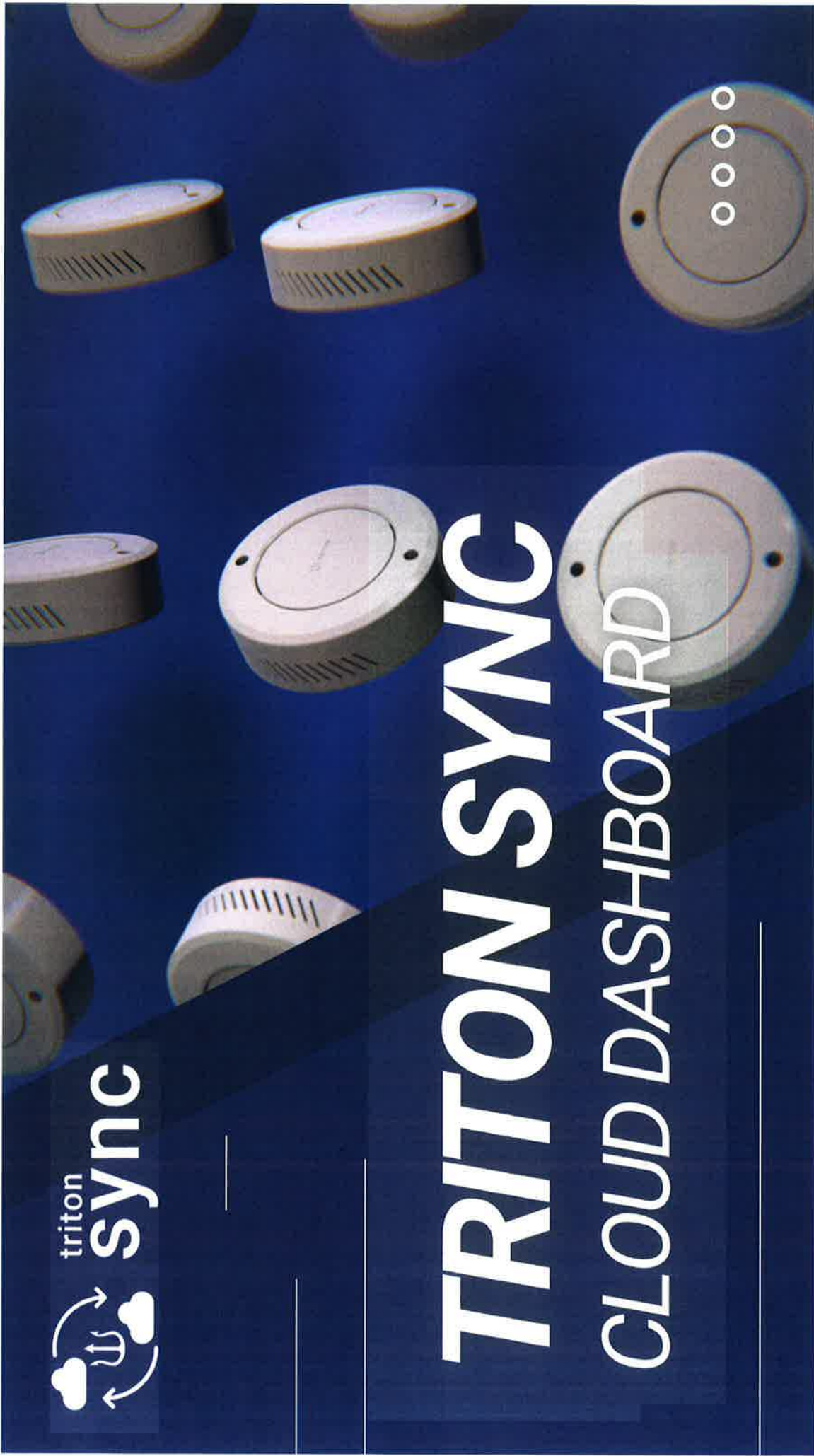
_____
Printed Name

triton **sync**

TRITON SYNC
CLOUD DASHBOARD

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Effortlessly manage all your Triton devices from our unified control center. Triton Sync is your hub for registering new devices, managing device settings, viewing key device insights, and customizing alerts. This brochure provides an overview of key Sync features exclusive to Triton Sensors devices.

Visit Sync

Schedule Meeting

triton sync

KEY FEATURES

- 14+ Integrations with top cameras and VMSs
- Effortless device setup via QR code
- Easily Manage all users and assign them to school/district groups
- "Quality of Life" settings such as OTA updates, operating hours and device sensitivity
- 3 Notification Types (Text, Email, Push Notification)
- Histogram of detected vaping to better allocate resources
- Same-Day Support online or over the phone
- Call (800) 305-1617 to speak with a human any time

TWO-STEP EASY SETUP

#1 Register Device

Scan the device's QR code or add it via serial number on the dashboard and it'll be online in seconds

#2 Add Users

Assign user groups or individual users to receive notifications

Operating Hours

Choose when devices send alerts and when they are silent. Avoid masking alerts when spraying cleaning products and noise alerts when there's a big basketball game.

Sensitivity

Find the perfect balance to optimize your devices for your environment by optimizing for accuracy and against false alarms.

OTA Updates

We're always improving our algorithm and adding new features. With Sync, your devices download new software updates automatically so you're always up to date.

Unlimited Alerts... On Any Device

📲 **Text Message**

🔔 **App Notification**

✉️ **Email**

📷 **3rd Party Video Software**

With Triton Sync, users can choose unlimited contacts to receive notifications. Managing users and groups is a breeze and you can make changes at any point.

Four Account Types for Easy Management

Some users need more capabilities than others. That's why Sync has four account types tailored to each user's needs.

- Super Admin
  - Ideal for Integrators who would like to manage accounts for their customers. They can view multiple schools and districts right from one account.
- District Admin
  - Can manage devices and users at multiple unique locations
- Admin
  - Can manage all users and devices in a single location
- User
  - Assigned to specific devices based on their group or individual settings

Vaping Histogram

Know which areas of your buildings are most popular for vaping and at what times. Use this data to better patrol your hallways and end your school's vaping epidemic.

INTEGRATIONS

AXIS
COMMUNICATIONS

Genetec

EEi-PRO
The Power of Truth

GANZ CORTROL

AVIGILON ALTA

id

EPIC iO

HIK VISION

Contact Us For An Up To Date List Or To Enquire About Integrating

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✉ info@tritonsensors.com

🌐 www.tritonsensors.com

Belleville Area District Library

Operating:

Check Date	Vendor Namne	Check Description	Amount
02/18/2025	A PRODUCTION BUILDING SOLUTION	February Cleaning	3,565.00
02/18/2025	ADKISON, NEED, ALLEN & RENTROP	Legal Counsel, G. Hans Rentrop	1,500.00
02/18/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	building supplies; books & materials	262.07
02/18/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	OFFICE SUPPLIES	25.47
02/18/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	OFFICE SUPPLIES	9.99
02/18/2025	AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	Membership Dues	210.00
02/18/2025	BELLEVILLE AREA INDEPENDENT	PUBLICATIONS-NEWSPAPERS	648.00
02/18/2025	BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MICH	Dental	906.14
02/18/2025	BRODART CO.	OFFICE SUPPLIES	202.06
02/18/2025	DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY	No So Famous Women program	275.00
02/18/2025	DTE ENERGY	Electric, Gas Service	239.17
02/18/2025	FANTASEE INTEGRATION	Children's room lights	175.00
02/18/2025	FRIENDS OF THE BELLEVILLE AREA	January 2025 Payout	990.80
02/18/2025	ODP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LLC	OFFICE AND BUILDING SUPPLIES	756.51
02/18/2025	OVERDRIVE, INC	Content Credit - Feb 2025	3,000.00
02/18/2025	SHARON DUCKWORTH, CPA	Accounting Services Feb 2025	1,025.00
02/18/2025	THE LIBRARY NETWORK	Telecommunications-telephone	509.51
02/18/2025	UNIQUE MANAGEMENT SERVICES INC	January Placements	109.35
02/18/2025	WASTE MANAGEMENT OF MI, INC	Dumpster service	487.68
03/04/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Supplies; books & materials	439.35
03/04/2025	CHASE CARDMEMBER SERVICE	office & program supplies	156.67
03/04/2025	CITY OF BELLEVILLE	Water and Sewer	128.04
03/04/2025	CLEAR RATE COMMUNICATIONS	Telephone/fax	327.10
03/04/2025	DC LAWN & SNOW	February salt and plowing	3,150.00
03/04/2025	DTE ENERGY	Electric	2,785.87
03/04/2025	DTE ENERGY	Heat, 4th Street	1,407.86
03/04/2025	FORMSITE	Online lib card software thru 1/27/26	417.96
03/04/2025	GA BUSINESS PURCHASER LLC	Alarm services - Sumpter	56.96
03/04/2025	JENNIFER RICHARDSON	Lib of things prog supplies	85.58
03/04/2025	LONG MECHANICAL SERVICE	Server room air conditioner	8,150.00
03/04/2025	LONG PLUMBING CO.	Plumbing	190.00
03/04/2025	MIDWEST TAPE	hoopla-books & matls	2,799.11
03/04/2025	ODP BUSINESS SOLULTIONS LLC	bldg supplies	476.13
03/04/2025	OTIS ELEVATOR COMPANY	Elevator Repairs	1,298.19
03/04/2025	RACHEL O'BRIEN	payroll correction - net pay	37.21
03/04/2025	STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY	Short & Long Term Disability Insurance	698.87
03/04/2025	THE LIBRARY NETWORK	books & materials; shared tech	12,929.77
03/04/2025	TYLER TECHNOLOGIES	Fundbalance annual fee	833.71
03/04/2025	UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE	Postage to Permit #103	2,000.00
03/04/2025	WOODENBOAT	books & materials, 2yr renewal	73.95
03/04/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	program supplies; books & materials	866.16
03/04/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	office supplies; books & materials	195.72
03/04/2025	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	Supplies; books & materials	717.60

43	Checks Total:	55,118.56
43	Bank Total:	55,118.56
43	Grand Total:	55,118.56

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MARCH 2025

LIBRARY PROGRAMS   **February: Adults: 23   Youth: 14**

LIBRARY VISITS	**2024/25**	**2023/24**	**% change**
February	9,396	11,083	-15.22%
Fiscal Year	99,704	89,663	11.20%

TOTAL CIRC	**2024/25**	**2023/24**	**% change**
February	18,382	19,684	-6.61%
Fiscal Year	163,868	169,640	-3.40%

ADULT PROGRAMMING	**2024/25**	**2023/24**	**% change**
February	209	213	-1.88%
Fiscal Year	1,382	1,025	34.83%

YOUTH/TEEN PROGRAMMING	**2024/25**	**2023/24**	**% change**
February	245	454	-46.04%
Fiscal Year	3,197	3,382	-5.47%

REF. QUESTIONS	**2024/25**	**2023/24**	**% change**
February	1,653	1,732	-4.56%
Fiscal Year	13,125	12,985	1.08%

INTERNET USE	**2024/25**	**2023/24**	**% change**
February	853	933	-8.57%
Fiscal Year	7,580	7,915	-4.23%

YOUTH/TEEN INTERNET	**2024/25**	**2023/24**	**% change**
February	195	282	-30.85%
Fiscal Year	2,008	2,254	-10.91%

BUILDING: The library received a quote from O'Neal Construction of $10,301 for the installation of vape detectors in the public restrooms.

PENAL FINES: Steven Bowers, the Director of The Library Network, is facilitating a Zoom meeting for directors of Wayne County Libraries now that the Library of Michigan has stepped away from the issue. After hearing from other libraries who found discrepancies in some of the numbers on the Library of Michigan's spreadsheet, I performed a deep dive into our data, and I did discover some incorrect data in 2019 and 2020 equaling about $16,000 to our benefit. I emailed the Wayne County Treasurer's Department who told me they would revise the spread sheet. Sharon Peters and I met with our attorney who highly recommended that that it is in the best interest of all parties to work toward a settlement agreement. He saw the benefit of having an audit conducted and of having checks and balances in place to assure that this does not happen in the future.

STAFF: Incoming staff: Library assistants Solina Robles and Samantha Shannon. Outgoing staff: Full-time librarian Kelly Skinner is retiring from the library to pursue a new career. Since the late 1990s, Kelly has served on and off in a variety of roles at the library including circulation clerk, children's librarian, and most recently, adult services librarian. She will be missed by me, our staff, and the public. Substitute librarian Rachel Davies will be promoted to full-time adult services librarian. (Rachel served with us as a part time librarian until she moved to a full-time position elsewhere in 2023).

PROGRAMMING: Classic Movie Night returns on Thursday, March 13th at 6:30 pm and features *On the Town* starring Gene Kelly and Frank Sinatra. 42 people attended the reopening program for our Seed Library. The next program in our *Let's Get Growing* series is on Wednesday March 12 at 6:30 pm and focuses on starting seeds for early season crops. The Youth Department is celebrating March is Reading Month with a *Family Fort Night* on Friday, March 14 from 6:30-8 pm. Kids and their families will hear stories, make a craft, and make blanket forts.

Librarians Karen Dubke and Nakenya Lewis-Yarbrough testing out a blanket fort.

Detroit Free Press

WAYNE

Accounting errors have cost Wayne County libraries millions

Nushrat Rahman
Detroit Free Press

Published 6:03 a.m. ET Feb. 13, 2025 | **Updated 11:47 a.m. ET Feb. 13, 2025**

Key Points

- The Wayne County Treasurer's office acknowleded the errors.
- Staff turnover led to the accounting errors, according to a report from the Library of Michigan.

Over the last decade, 18 libraries in Wayne County have been shorted as much as $1.9 million, while 11 saw an influx in cash, all because of staff turnover at the county level and subsequent accounting errors.

The money at issue flows through the state and comes from penal fines, which are paid to courts in criminal and some civil violations, including most traffic fines. County treasurers collect and distribute the fines to libraries. This funding is baked into state law and it can account for anywhere between 3% to 70% of public libraries' annual budgets, according to the Library of Michigan.

Wayne County lost the employee who calculated penal fines and the county did not replace that position, according to a report the Library of Michigan prepared for public library directors and boards.

Staff who took on the job did not have the proper training and already had other tasks, the report said, noting that they were "stretched thin." The report, and accompanying corrected penal fine calculations, were prepared by the Library of Michigan in consultation with the county treasurer's office.

LIVE IN WAYNE COUNTY? See if your library was underpaid or overpaid

Of 29 Wayne County public libraries eligible for penal fines, 11 received more and 18 got less than they should have, according to Library of Michigan calculations. Libraries were underpaid anywhere from about $18,000, in the case of Wayne Public Library, to more than $1.9 million for Detroit Public Library. Romulus Public Library received about $1.4 million more than it should have, while Ecorse Public Library got an additional $26,700 or so. In all, it appears libraries were underpaid about $3.6 million in total, according to a spreadsheet from the Library of Michigan.

Now libraries are figuring out what to do next.

More: Downtown Detroit's Skillman library to reopen after renovations

What the Wayne County treasurer's office has to say

Wayne County bears the most responsibility for the miscalculation, according to the report. The Library of Michigan said it didn't find evidence of intentional or criminal behavior. The Library of Michigan said in its report that the "situation seems clearly the result of negligence, poor communication, failure to replace departed employees, and lack of proper training."

In a statement to the Free Press last week, the Wayne County Treasurer's Office acknowledged "an ongoing miscalculation of the formula for disbursing penal fines that rests with our office."

"Once we determined the error, our office contacted the State Library to assist with a solution. By law, the Treasurer's office has the authority to immediately withhold funds from any future penal fines payments from those overpaid libraries and to transfer those funds to the underpaid libraries. This would substantially shorten the time for repayment and recoupment. However, we are actively working with all parties to explore other solutions to mitigate any potential budgetary issues this option could create," the county treasurer's office said in its statement.

County treasurers collect and distribute penal fines to a list of eligible libraries, provided by the Library of Michigan. Each county has its own process for doling out penal fines.

What Wayne County libraries have to say

Public library boards and commissions across Wayne County have been discussing the issue and are determining their next steps.

> Northville District Library was underpaid $88,368, according to a spreadsheet provided to Wayne County libraries by the Library of Michigan, said Laura Mancini, director of Northville District Library. The library's board of trustees in collecting more information to determine next steps, Mancini said in an email.
> Grosse Pointe Public Library — estimated to have been underpaid $139,627 — is working with its attorney and other libraries to resolve the issue, according to director Jessica Keyser.
> Redford Township District Library director Garrett Hungerford said the library board "is committed to recovering the funds owed to the library in the most effective and efficient manner." Redford Township District was underpaid $97,541.
> The Library of Michigan found that the Livonia Public Library was overpaid $228,493. Kristen Edson, library director of Livonia Public Library, said her library would work with other area libraries to come up with a "fair and equitable resolution."
> Mary Jo Suchy, director of Belleville Area District Library, said the library board is interested in a settlement solution with other libraries and Wayne County. Belleville Area District Library was overpaid $139,087.

What's next

The Library of Michigan, part of the Michigan Department of Education, learned of the issue involving Wayne County public libraries and had asked the institutions if they'd like to find an "amicable resolution" with other libraries and the Wayne County Treasurer, according to a letter provided to the Free Press, signed by state librarian Randy Riley.

"Having made all the information in its possession relating to the Wayne County penal fine distribution public and having advised the recipients of this letter that Wayne County Public Libraries are interested in further discussions, the Library of Michigan will take no additional action relating to this matter," Riley said in the Feb. 5 letter, directing libraries to consult an attorney and reach out to the Wayne County Treasurer's Office.

The Michigan Department of Education referred questions about next steps to the Wayne County libraries and directed a reporter to a Library of Michigan webpage, regarding

clarification on its overview report and calculations of overpaid and underpaid libraries.
Library directors indicated they want to work together to fix the issue.

"The public libraries in Wayne County have a long history of working cooperatively with each
other, and I am confident that we can arrive at a solution," Suchy said in an email last week.

Contact Nushrat Rahman: nrahman@freepress.com. Follow her on X: @NushratR.

https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/wayne/2025/02/13/accounting-errors-
cost-wayne-county-libraries-millions-detroit-public-library/78188575007/

MDE

MeLCat, Michigan's eLibrary Catalog, Celebrates 20 Years of Sharing Resources

February 27, 2025

Media Contact:

Media Contact

Bob Wheaton

MDE-Communications@michigan.gov

517-241-4395

LANSING – The Michigan eLibrary Catalog (MeLCat,) the statewide shared catalog and inter-library loan component of the Michigan eLibrary, is celebrating 20 years of service to Michigan libraries and their communities in 2025 by asking Michigan residents to tell their stories connected with the service.

Growing from 12 member libraries in 2005, MeLCat now boasts over 435 libraries—public, school, academic and special—using different automation systems.

"MeLCat provides a great resource to libraries of all sizes and enables libraries to share their resources to better serve their patrons," said State

Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice. "Its expansion over the years, both in libraries and resources, is a testament to its value to Michiganders across the state."

State Librarian Mr. Randy Riley joined Dr. Rice in recognizing MeLCat.

"As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of MeLCat, we honor two decades of innovation, collaboration, and service to Michigan communities," Riley said. "MeLCat has transformed the way residents access knowledge, connecting people to millions of resources from libraries across the state. This milestone reflects the dedication of libraries, large and small, and partners who have worked tirelessly to make information accessible to all. We are proud to celebrate this remarkable achievement and look forward to continuing to enable equitable access to information resources for all residents of Michigan, for generations to come."

Since 2005, MeLCat has built a database with over 34 million holdings with an average request fill rate of over 90%.

Beginning in 2005, the Midwest Collaborative for Library Services has been an important partner in MeLCat's development, continuing support and training for member libraries.

"Supporting the MeLCat infrastructure that helps hundreds of libraries borrow and lend over 1 million items per year to provide people in their communities the materials they need for learning, growth, and recreation has been, and continues to be, a great privilege for the Midwest Collaborative for Library Services," said Scott Garrison, Midwest Collaborative for Library Services executive director. "We so appreciate the opportunity to serve the Library of Michigan and the hundreds of Michigan libraries that participate in MeLCat."

The goal of the Michigan eLibrary is to provide equitable access to a comprehensive array of high-quality information resources for Michigan residents. Using MeLCat as a discovery tool fosters collaboration among libraries and other organizations to enhance knowledge-sharing and ensure resources, including special, unique, or historical materials, are available to all, regardless of geographic or economic barriers.

The success of MeLCat is a testament to the enduring value and power of all types and sizes of libraries working together to build a service that benefits Michigan residents statewide. In honor of MeLCat's 20th anniversary, the Library of Michigan is asking Michigan residents to [share their MeLCat stories](#).

The Michigan eLibrary and its component, MeLCat is a service made possible by support from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the State of Michigan through the Library of Michigan. Additional funding provided by the State of Michigan.

# # #

The Library of Michigan is an agency within the Michigan Department of Education and is dedicated to providing the people of this state and their government one perpetual institution to collect, preserve, and provide access to the story of the state, and to support libraries in their role as essential community anchors. To learn more, visit www.Michigan.gov/LibraryofMichigan.

Department of Education   MI Newswire

Department of Education

Related News

MDE Celebrates Annual National School Breakfast Week March 3-7

Michigan Regional Teachers of the Year Announced for 2025-26

How a Measured Approach to Integrating Generative AI Benefits Learners and Library Patrons

by Gale, part of Cengage Group
Feb 20, 2025 | Filed in Academic Libraries

Artificial intelligence is not a solution—it's a tech tool that is only useful when it actually solves problems for learners and librarians.

AI is everywhere you look today, from the big three search engines to the local library. While companies around the world have raced to jump on the generative AI bandwagon, it has proven to be **neither as profitable nor as effective** as its early advocates have hoped. Gale's parent company, Cengage Group, has been at the forefront of exploring AI's potential to support academic areas from **research** to **reskilling**, and our experience has taught us to take a thoughtful approach to incorporating generative AI into our offerings.

As with any other technological innovation, choosing the best tool for the job starts with asking the right questions. While many leaders are asking, *"How quickly can we introduce our new generative AI tool?"* Our focus has been on asking, *"How can we make our user experience better—and can AI play a role?"*

As with any other technological innovation, choosing the best tool for the job starts with asking the right questions.

For us in the edtech space, this means evaluating how AI can be leveraged to enhance the learning experience so that we offer students a more personalized experience and create efficiency that allows librarians and educators to focus on learner relationships. As Gale partners with libraries to provide educational resources to millions, the five key principles guiding us may prove helpful to librarians who are evaluating or implementing AI tools.

1) Demystify AI rather than trying to predict what it might do.

Research shows that nearly half of academic librarians believe generative AI has the potential to benefit library services and operations—yet they still have legitimate concerns about their preparedness and the technology's privacy and security. Rather than focusing on what generative AI *might* do, we treat AI like any other developing technology. We say "developing" not "new" because, while many generative AI functions have been launched recently, artificial intelligence has been around for years.

Like other companies who deliver content online, Gale has leveraged machine learning to enable text and data mining in *Gale Digital Scholar Lab* and to bring curriculum-aligned content into classroom instruction with *Gale In Context: For Educators*.

As AI becomes a fact of life in the library and classroom, everyone dedicated to education and research serves learners best by focusing not on a hypothetical future but on the practical present. Developing a publicly available **AI policy** is an essential first step. As you put that policy into action, always bear in mind the skills learners will need to benefit from AI, as well as the skills they might learn from using it

2) Always focus on solving learners' actual problems.

The excitement around AI has created disconnects between what students want from AI and the preparedness of schools and libraries to use it. The rush to appear cutting-edge by integrating AI into processes and products has led some organizations and institutions to adopt a *"when-you-have-a-hammer-everything-looks-like-a-nail"* mindset.

Providing AI tools for their novelty value is tempting, but rolling out something new is only productive when it is actually more effective for the job at hand than what you're already using. Gale faced this sort of choice recently when we were looking to translate a large body of online

content into several foreign languages. We considered using a **large language model (LLM)**, but our testing showed that "lower-tech" machine translation worked better than AI in its current state, so we chose the tool that worked better.

So rather than offering a generative AI solution to a problem your patrons and learners don't actually have, conduct user surveys to discover their current challenges. With that information in hand, convene a workshop to determine if AI might be able to contribute to a solution. For example, when Gale conducted a survey at the ALA Annual Conference last summer, we found enormous interest in applying AI to deliver better student outcomes or to lighten the burden on educators. At the same time, respondents were clear that they don't want answer-oriented AI tools that short-circuit the learning process or limit learners' opportunities to develop critical thinking skills.

To keep our users' needs front and center, any new generative AI tool Gale releases will be in beta so we can benefit from the symbiotic relationship we've built with the librarians, educators, researchers, and students who use our products every day. This approach can also apply to any tool a library introduces: as patrons learn to use the new tool, librarians learn how to make it work better for them.

3) Distinguish real human intelligence from artificially created "intelligence."

LLM chatbots can be astonishing. The slick writing styles, embedded knowledge, and simulated self-awareness can make them appear to be glib and seemingly infallible oracles. The new **agentic AI systems**, with their ability to make decisions, work with other AI agents, and perform tasks, are especially impressive. They are certainly a vast improvement over a web search engine that spews out millions of weblinks—but chatbots can also be Trojan horses spewing made-up facts with no awareness or accountability. A large language model that is trained on specious material can become a vector spreading falsehoods.

By contrast, a retrieval augmented generation (RAG) approach harnesses the general conversational power of an LLM while limiting the chatbot's responses to specific, academically relevant data it has been trained on, such as peer-reviewed articles. While an unlimited LLM might base its answers on anonymous content from a subreddit, RAG can deliver information only from authoritative articles published with a byline in a peer-reviewed journal with clear journalistic and academic standards. These articles can be cited, reproduced, and, on occasion, corrected according to ethical guidelines.

4) Protect valuable human intelligence and intellectual property.

Given the importance of training AI on credible authoritative sources, tech companies have used a variety of approaches to train their LLMs. This has resulted in an onslaught of lawsuits over the use of copyrighted material. Failure to protect intellectual property (IP) is an avoidable financial risk, so libraries should take protecting that material very seriously as well. Consider what should go behind a firewall and who should have access to the protected material and find an LLM tool that respects the boundaries you want around IP. To maintain trust with authors and publishers, Gale makes sure they know how we are keeping their IP safe, and we secure the appropriate licenses to content we intend to use as training material for AI tools—transparency goes a long way.

5) Safeguard data.

The consequences of failing to protect learner data can be severe. A recent cautionary tale is AllHere Education, an edtech company that had $12 million in startup funding and seven-figure contacts to deliver its AI-powered chatbot Ed. Following suspicions about how it was safeguarding student data, the company is now **bankrupt and under federal investigation**. A measured, learner-focused approach to AI must include having a clear data protection policy—and the mechanisms to enforce it—in place.

> **A measured, learner-focused approach to AI must include having a clear data protection policy in place.**

AI is constantly evolving, and our approach to the technology will need to evolve with it. Rather than declaring, "Here's a hard and fast truth that we're certain of," keep up to date with the latest developments, continually review the ethics of your AI integration, and keep asking yourself, *"What problem am I solving for learners and patrons, and could AI be part of the solution?"*

To learn more about AI at Gale, visit: **https://www.gale.com/generative-ai**

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From : hoopla Digital   Fri, Feb 14, 2025 11:02 AM
Subject : Update on Hoopla Instant Catalog

We have recently undertaken a comprehensive review of our current collection development policy and have made several updates to address the concerns raised by you, our valued digital partners. As we continue to grow and adapt to the ever-evolving digital media landscape, our goal remains to collaborate with you in delivering a best-in-class digital service that you can trust and feel confident in offering to your community.

As part of these efforts, we have implemented the following actions:

1. Updated Collection Development Policy:
We are rolling out a revised collection development policy to ensure we adhere to and evolve with industry best practices. This policy reflects our commitment to providing high-quality curated content and mitigating the presence of poorly AI-generated content, summaries, and misinformation while offering a contemporary and relevant collection in various formats that meets the informational, educational, and recreational needs of our diverse communities.

2. Summary Titles Update:

We have removed and parked summary titles from all vendors, with some exceptions, such as HMH Books (CliffsNotes). This action aims to reduce the total number of AI-generated summaries while offering a better patron experience and a more thoughtfully curated collection of summaries for libraries that continue to make them available. The evaluation of content in this summary category will be ongoing, and the processes will adapt as needed.

It is important to note that libraries may still choose to opt out of all summaries by contacting their sales representative.

3. Poor-Quality and/or Poor-Quality Artificial Intelligence (AI) Titles Update:

We have also removed and parked some aggregated publishers and authors identified as providing poor-quality and/or poor-quality AI-generated content. We have utilized industry metadata standards to identify AI-generated content, when provided by publishers and authors. This has enabled us to flag and remove some existing Hoopla content, as well as flag and park some incoming content for further review. Currently, we are in ongoing discussions with our content providers to advocate for additional transparency in the metadata they provide around AI-generated content. However, please note that at this time, there is a lack of industry standardization in AI-generated content, specifically in the eBook publishing space.

It is important to note that libraries may still choose to opt out of all publisher-tagged AI-generated content by contacting their sales representative.

4. Tailored Management for Libraries:

We acknowledge that each library may have its own collection development policies. To support this, we are committed to continually developing better ways to manage the Hoopla catalog. We encourage you to reach out to our sales and support team at 800.875.2785 for assistance with any additional changes you may need to make to the Hoopla catalog to ensure alignment with your library's collection

development policy.

It is our hope that you are already noticing the positive impact of these actions. For over 30 years, Midwest Tape has been a trusted partner for public libraries, providing innovative solutions for workflows and collections. As the digital landscape evolves and the demand for digital content rises, we are here to support libraries in meeting these new challenges. As such, we remain committed to collaborating with you in this rapidly evolving digital landscape, and look forward to providing further updates on enhancements as we progress.

Please be sure to join us at ALA in Philadelphia as we host a session continuing this conversation.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

Classic Movies Series

GENE KELLY · FRANK SINATRA
BETTY GARRETT · ANN MILLER

They Paint The Town With Joy!

ON THE TOWN

MGM's BIG TECHNICOLOR MUSICAL!

JULES MUNSHIN   VERA-ELLEN

Thursday, March 13 @ 6:30 at the Belleville Area District Library

On The Town (1945)

Directors: Stanley Donen & Gene Kelly
Starring Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra, & Betty Garrett
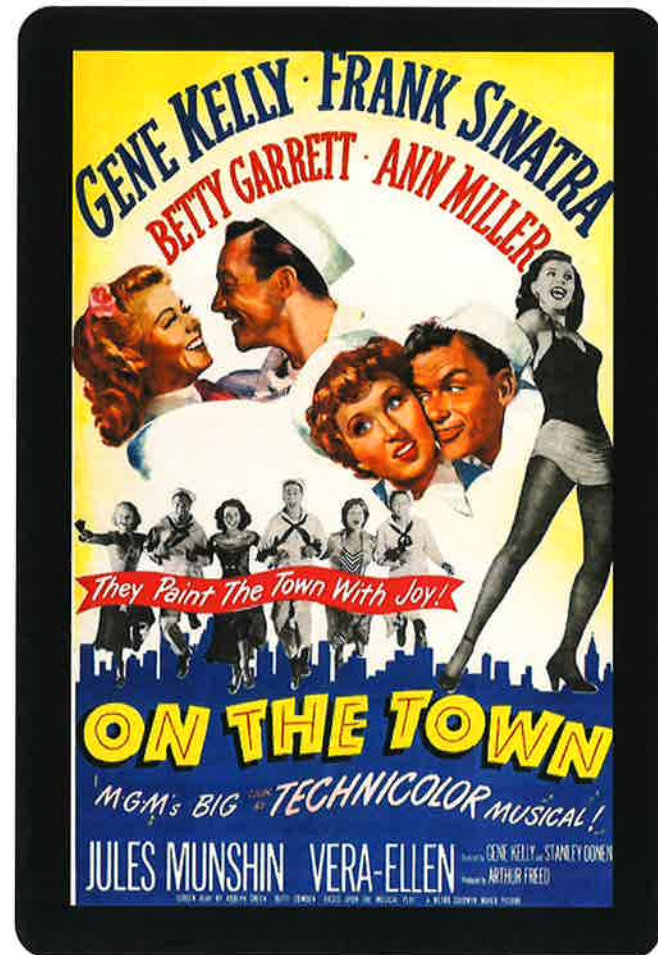
Brought to you by the Friends of the Belleville Area District Library and the Belleville Area Council for the Arts

Friends of the
BELLEVILLE AREA
DISTRICT LIBRARY

FAMILY FORT NIGHT

FRIDAY, MARCH 14 6:30 - 8 PM

MARCH IS READING MONTH!

What better way to celebrate than as a family with some after hours library fun? Hear stories with a librarian, make a craft, grab a snack, and share family activities like building blanket forts in the library to enjoy stories in. Bring sheets, blankets, pillows, and a flashlight to use. We will have additional supplies available for anyone to use.

REGISTER HERE
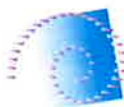
BELLEVILLE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY
734-699-3291

BELLEVILLE AREA
DISTRICT LIBRARY

Let's Get Growing!

Attend one or all of our plant and garden related programs, and green up your thumbs for the 2025 growing season!

SEED LIBRARY SEASON OPENING: SELECT YOUR SEEDS

Saturday
March 1
11–3

STARTING SEEDS FOR WARM SEASON CROPS WITH LINDSAY KERR

Wednesday
March 26
6:30 pm

LITTLE SCIENTISTS PLANTS YOUTH PROGRAM

Saturday
April 26
2 pm

STARTING SEEDS FOR EARLY SEASON CROPS WITH LINDSAY KERR

Wednesday
March 12
6:30 pm

GROW GREAT VEGETABLES, WITH BEVIN COHEN

Wednesday
April 16
6:30 pm

PRESENTED BY THE MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Veggies FROM SEED

STARTING

WARM SEASON CROPS
MARCH 26, 6:30 PM
Tomatoes, Peppers, Eggplant...

EARLY SEASON CROPS
MARCH 12, 6:30 PM
Kale, Cabbage, Peas, Onions...

BELLEVILLE AREA
DISTRICT LIBRARY

Boredom Busting
Spring Break

March 24-27

Build It
Monday
10 am – 12 pm
Drop in and build with a variety of materials, including Leogs, blocks, and Strawbees.

Storytimes
Family Storytime:
Monday @ 6:30 pm
Toddler Time: Tuesday @ 11 am
Baby Storytime:
Thursday@ 10 or 11 am
Saturday Storytime:
Saturday @ 11 am

Kid Movie Matinee
Thursday
2 pm
Moana 2

Craft-A-Palooza
Wednesday
10 am - 12 pm
Drop in for a variety of crafting fun!

See the calendar for more details!

BELLEVILLE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY

belleville.lib.mi.us ~ 734-699-3291

Do you know an adult who needs help reading?

THE
BELLEVILLE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY

Now offers FREE 1-on-1 tutoring with trained literacy volunteers.

CONTACT **JENN RICHARDSON** @ **734-699-3291** or **jrichardson@belleville.lib.mi.us**

FOR MORE INFORMATON.

The Belleville Area District Library

Now offers
FREE 1-on-1 tutoring
with trained ESL volunteers.

Scan to get a phone call

OR

Call **Jenn Richardson** at
734-699-3291

PRESENTATION BY ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN.

EMPOWERED CAREGIVERS SERIES: BUILDING FOUNDATIONS OF CARE

Learn

- a person centered approach to caregiving,
- how to reduce caregiver stress and
- how relationships can change over time throughout the caregiving journey.

📅 **WED. MARCH 26TH**

🕐 **11AM - 12PM**

📍 **COZZAD ROOM**

MAIN LIBRARY
167 4th St.
Belleville, MI 48101
(734) 699-3291

BELLEVILLE AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY
www.belleville.lib.mi.us

SUMPTER MEDIA CENTER
23465 Sumpter Rd.
Belleville, MI 48101
(734) 699-3291