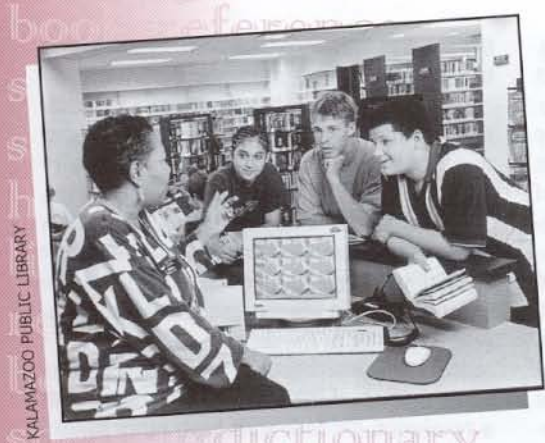


reading internet
book reference



speaking dictionary
stories directories
help desk magazine
library children



book reference
speaking dictionary
stories directories
help desk magazine



library children
reading internet
book reference

by Jean Hughes Raber
Contributing Writer

Is a district library the right choice for your township?

Maintaining a modern library with the services and facilities users want is becoming increasingly expensive. Many townships, cities and villages are proud of their venerable library buildings, but those buildings are more difficult to maintain as they age. Local governments that oversee local libraries find themselves in the midst of debates over appropriate Internet use and book censorship, and the libraries are increasingly competing with other programs and services for funds from the local unit. As a result, many local libraries have made the move to a district library.

In 1994, legislation to implement Proposal A banned school districts from appropriating millage to operate their public libraries (MCL 380.1211(8)f). As a result, most school district libraries were forced to consider four options: closing, asking a local government to assume their operation, joining a county library or establishing a district library. Many chose to become part of a district library.

The mounting pressures among local units to reevaluate library services have made district libraries a topic of interest to many townships. This article looks at the benefits of forming a district library, explains how one is formed and operated, and examines a township's role as a district library member.

Public libraries operate under several acts

Public libraries can be operated by several kinds of governmental units. City, village and township libraries are sometimes called "public libraries," to differentiate them from county or district libraries. In fact, local, county, school district and district libraries are all public.

A **local library** is one established and operated by a city, village or township under the City, Village and Township Libraries Act, Public Act 164 of 1877 (MCL 397.201, *et seq*).

A **county library** is governed by the County Libraries Act, PA 138 of 1917 (MCL 397.301, *et seq*).

A **school district library** is operated by school districts under the Libraries Under Boards of Education Act, PA 261 of 1913 (MCL 397.261, *et seq*).

A **district library** includes two or more local entities and is governed by the District Library Establishment Act, PA 24 of 1989 (MCL 397.171, *et seq*), and the District Library Financing Act, Public Act 265 of 1988 (MCL 397.281, *et seq*).

The chart on page 12 shows some of the ways these libraries differ.

According to Ellen Richardson, library law specialist at the Library of Michigan in Lansing, which oversees all public libraries in the state, a 1989 revision of the district library laws made it easier and more advantageous to form a district library. Since then, the number of district libraries has doubled.

What are the benefits of joining a district library?

To the average library user, a district library is probably indistinguishable from a local library. That is, a district library may be housed in a single building or have one or more branch libraries. District residents may check out materials for free and may be assessed fines if they don't return their materials on time. The district library may have amenities such as computers, meeting rooms and reading programs. ▶

According to the Library of Michigan, communities convert to or join a district library because of the independent authority given to a district library board and the potential to raise a separate, district-wide millage as a stable source of funding. A district library is also eligible for tax anticipation notes, a form of credit that allows libraries to borrow operating funds at low interest rates against taxes to be collected.

A district library board, which focuses solely on library issues, may offer problem-solving advantages, because requests for assistance can go straight from a district library director to the district board.

Jim Curtis, director of the Portage Lake District Library (Houghton County), says that a district library affords economies of scale, especially in a sparsely populated area. His district includes the City of Houghton as well as Chassel, Portage Charter and Stanton Townships.

"Instead of four entities each setting up their own libraries, we can pool our resources in one central facility," says Curtis. "The financial burden of individual libraries could bear. If we weren't a district library, we wouldn't be able to serve residents in the outlying areas and we would have nowhere near the staff, equipment or collections we have."

"In nine cases out of 10, I'd encourage forming a district library," says Kalamazoo Public Library Director Saul Amdursky. "Any local library is competing for funds

with police and fire and other services. That competition disappears with a district library."

A district library, the Kalamazoo Public Library serves the City of Kalamazoo, most of Kalamazoo Charter Township, all of Oshtemo Charter Township and approximately 15% of Texas Township.

Amdursky concedes that election time poses special considerations for the clerks of Kalamazoo Charter and Texas Townships. Because the library serves only parts of those townships, the clerks must ensure that the ballots for the library millage are distributed only to electors within the library district boundaries.

Establishing a district library

A district library must include two or more townships, cities, villages, counties or school districts. The Romeo District Library (Macomb County) comprises the Village of Romeo and Bruce and Washington Townships. The Jordan Valley District Library includes the City of East Jordan and the East Jordan School District. Kent District Library, the largest district library in the state, is comprised of virtually all local entities in Kent County except the City of Grand Rapids. Richardson says that some district libraries follow the boundaries of the local school district, even if they don't include the school district as a district member.

The procedures are the same for converting an existing library into a district library or starting an entirely new district library. In both cases, where the proposed district

library will involve a township, participation by the township board is essential.

The Library of Michigan recommends that municipalities involved in forming a district library take the following preliminary steps, although they are not required by law:

1. *Hold preliminary meetings.* The township boards discuss at regularly scheduled or special meetings the advisability of establishing a district library and which local entities should be in the district.

2. *Pass a resolution to establish a district library.* Each of the municipal boards adopts a resolution to work with each other toward establishing a district library.

3. *Form a district library planning committee.* Each municipal board appoints a representative to serve on a district library planning committee.

The District Library Establishment Act outlines the steps municipalities must follow to establish a district library.

For example, imagine that Maple, Elm, Oak and Birch Townships decide to form a district library. Maple and Oak Townships each already operate a local library. Here are the statutory steps they must follow:

1. *Approve a district library agreement.* The four township boards draw up a district library agreement that must be adopted by each township in separate but identical resolutions. The district's boundaries must be drawn so one district does not overlap another.

The district library agreement must:
a) identify the local entities (or portions of local entities) included in the agreement;

How Michigan Public Libraries Operate

Library Type	Board Structure	Funding Sources
Local (MCL 397.201, <i>et seq</i>) <i>City, village or township library.</i> <i>Township information used here.</i>	A six-member board of directors elected to a four-year term.	Township libraries are generally funded through penal fines and state aid, plus local appropriations up to 2 mills, subject to the 50-mill operating cap.
County (MCL 397.301, <i>et seq</i>)	A five-member board appointed by county commissioners. Counties with over 1 million residents may appoint a seven-member board.	County board appropriations, penal fines and state aid.
School District (MCL 397.261, <i>et seq</i>)	The local school board governs the library, although there may be a library advisory board.	Penal fines and state aid.
District (MCL 397.171, <i>et seq</i> , and MCL 397.281, <i>et seq</i>)	A five- to eight-member district board appointed for not more than four-year terms, or a seven-member district board elected to four-year terms.	Penal fines and state aid, plus appropriations by participating communities up to 4 operating mills, not subject to the 50-mill operating cap.

b) indicate how many board members will govern the library and whether they will be elected or appointed;

c) appoint an interim board;

d) determine how the library will be funded and how each municipality will contribute; and

e) decide whether establishing the district library is contingent upon passing a millage in all of the local entities in the agreement.

2. *File the agreement.* Within 10 days after the agreement is adopted, the participating townships must file with the State Librarian at the Library of Michigan: 1) a copy of the district library agreement and signed resolutions adopting the agreement from each township, 2) a map of the district and 3) a map showing the relationship of the district to the adjacent and constituent governmental units. The State Librarian has 30 days to consider the agreement, and will disapprove it only if it fails to conform with the provisions of the District Library Establishment Act.

3. *Notify the county and local treasurers.* Upon receiving notice of the State Librarian's approval, the secretary of the district library board must submit to the county treasurer of each county in which the district is located and the treasurer of each municipality in which the district is located a copy of: 1) the State Librarian's written approval statement, 2) the map of the district, and 3) the tax identification number of each parcel of property within that municipality if only a portion of a municipality is included in the district.

4. *Hold district-wide millage elections.* If the district's formation is contingent upon passing a district-wide millage, the district library board will place a millage request before the voters in each participating governmental unit. The millage must pass by a majority vote in each local entity. So, if the millage passes in Oak, Elm and Birch Townships, but fails in Maple Township, only Oak, Elm and Birch Townships will comprise the district for the library, even if they do not form a contiguous district.

While establishing a district library is fairly straightforward, township boards should be aware of certain situations:

District library boundaries need not match governmental jurisdictions. It is not uncommon for district libraries to serve residents in only a portion of a city, village or township. For example, the Chelsea District Library serves the Village of Chelsea, Lyndon and Sylvan Townships, and portions of Dexter and Lima Townships within the Chelsea School District, and residents in those portions serve on the library board. Even if only part of a municipality will be served by a district library, the municipality's

governing board must still pass a district library establishment resolution, and the district library agreement must spell out which portions of the municipality are excluded from the agreement.

District library boundaries may jump county lines. The Kent District Library serves local entities in Kent, Newaygo and Montcalm Counties. According to Richardson, this is quite common when a school district participates in a district library or when the district follows school district boundaries.

District boundaries can also include two or more school districts. For example, the Kalamazoo Public Library originally served the Kalamazoo Public School District and covered the district's boundaries. When the library reorganized as a district library, its boundaries were expanded to cover the original school district and parts of two other school districts, although neither of the school districts participates in the district library.

A millage election is not required to establish a district library. District libraries can be formed by resolution of the governing boards of the participating local entities, without requiring a district-wide millage. For example, the fictional Oak, Elm, Birch and Maple Township boards could simply draw up a district library agreement to establish the library and fund it through agreed-upon local appropriations. Many districts prefer to form through a district-wide millage election because it allows local electors to decide whether to join the district. When a district library was proposed for the Port Huron area, there was some local opposition. The local governing boards made the library's establishment contingent on a millage election—which failed, and the district was not formed.

Millage elections must pass district-wide. Once any initial millage has been passed by electors, all subsequent millage elections are district-wide. This means that if the millage fails in Oak Township and passes in the remaining townships, it passes district-wide, and Oak Township residents will be required to pay the millage. Procedures are in place that would allow Oak Township to withdraw from the district. Failure of a millage district-wide does not automatically dissolve the district library agreement, but the library will have to be supported by other means until a new millage election can be held.

District library millage is not subject to the 50-mill cap; local allocation is. A district library board may ask for up to 4 operating mills. This is not figured into the state-mandated 50-mill operating cap imposed on local entities. However, if the district library will operate on any allocations from individ-



DELTON DISTRICT LIBRARY

Juggling at Delton District Library, sponsored by Barry County Substance Abuse Council and Big Boy Restaurant of Hastings.

ual entities within the district, those entities must ensure that the allocations fall within their individual 50-mill operating caps.

Local units oversee the appointment or election of district library boards. Local entities involved in a district library agreement may elect or appoint the library board when they draw up the district library agreement. In either case, board members must be qualified electors and residents of the district. Once appointed or elected, the district library board is essentially a separate governmental unit, answerable to the public and subject to the same Open Meetings Act, Freedom of Information Act and Americans With Disabilities Act requirements as any other governing body.

If the board is appointed, five to eight members are designated by the governing boards of the participating local entities for up to four-year terms. The appointees assume governance of the district library upon the State Librarian's approval of the library agreement. For example, having decided on a five-member board, Oak, Elm, Birch and Maple Townships could each appoint a representative, and a fifth representative would be appointed at-large. If there are more than five local entities, the district library agreement will designate how many participating entities each district library board member represents. For example, Kent District Library serves approximately 30 participating cities and townships, and each of the seven board members represents several communities.

Elected board members are elected at-large to a seven-member board for four-year terms. The clerks in participating townships oversee the library board member elections. If a district is new, an interim board is generally appointed to govern the library between the district's approval by the Library of Michigan and the time elections can be held.

District library boards control all former local libraries included in the district. When a local library is converted to a district library, the library building, its contents >



Browsing an old city plat book.



Reading a large-type screen.



Doing homework on a computer.

ALL PHOTOS KALAMAZOO PUBLIC LIBRARY

and assets may be legally deeded or leased to the district library board. In the example given above, Maple and Oak Townships operate their own local libraries. If the initial millage passes in those townships, the libraries become branches of the district library, owned by and subject to the governance of the district library board.

Establishing a district library means former local libraries are “under new management.” Once a district library board assumes operation of a former local library, the library is under new management. The district library board may consider new user rules and regulations and new benefit plans for its employees. When the Kalamazoo Public Library was operated by the school district, all library staff were members of the Michigan Education Association (MEA). While library staff still belong to the MEA, their contract is entirely separate from the school district contract. Amdursky said staff were most concerned about keeping the retirement plans provided by the school district. Kalamazoo Public Library hired legal counsel to help develop rules that allow the district library to retain staff retirement plans in former school district libraries.

Established district libraries may allow new local entities to join. For example, Willow Township wants to join the fictional district library established by Oak, Maple, Elm and Birch Townships. The Willow Township board must pass a resolution to join, and the district library board must pass a resolution to accept Willow Township, add it to the district library agreement and make changes in board representation, if needed. Residents in Willow Township must approve any district-wide library millage.

District libraries must fund their own programs. Becoming an independent authority provides district libraries with many benefits—and many responsibilities, such as hiring an accountant, setting up purchasing routines and conducting audits. Some district libraries elect to contract with

local entities for these services. When the Kalamazoo Public Library became a district library, it hired three people to handle marketing activities, including a newsletter that goes to library patrons three or four times each year and a web site that keeps users informed of library news.

Funding a district library

All of Michigan’s 381 libraries receive funds from penal fines, and 151 of them depend on penal fines for 30% or more of their total budgets.

A portion of all fines collected for state civil and criminal violations is sent by the district court to the county treasurer in the county where the court is located. By July 15 of each year, the Library of Michigan certifies to county treasurers the population served by each library in the county. The county treasurer determines the per capita distribution rate for each library in the county and sends the penal fines to any state-approved library open 10 or more hours per week. Amdursky points out that penal fines vary from year to year, which makes it difficult to predict how much money will be available.

The state allocates \$1.50 per capita to libraries. Of that allocation, 50 cents goes directly to the local library. Another 50 cents goes to the local library, but must be used to pay for library cooperative services (most state libraries belong to library cooperatives, discussed later in this article). The remaining 50 cents goes directly to the cooperatives.

The District Library Financing Act allows district libraries to use additional funding options, including any or all of the following:

■ **District-wide millage.** Many district libraries use the district-wide millage as their primary source of funds.

■ **Local millage.** In addition to the district library board, local governing boards may request millage for operating the district library. The local millage is requested,

approved and applied only to that local entity, not to the entire district. Local millages fall within the 50-mill operating cap, while district-wide millages do not.

Typically, local millages are used only to enhance services, not to provide the major source of funding for the district library. However, the Delton District Library (Barry County), serving Hope, Barry, Prairieville and Orange Townships, operates on local, rather than district millage. In addition to these funds, strong community support has been essential to the library’s operation. Library Director Jane Leavitt says that when the new library building was planned, local architects donated their time to draw up the design, community members raised funds for building materials and contracting, local building trades students helped with construction, and community members did much of the painting and decorating inside.

■ **General fund appropriations.** General fund appropriations from participating local units do not require voter approval. These appropriations should be spelled out in the district library agreement. Appropriations may be needed to operate the library once it has been established but before the district-wide millage has been approved and collected. Appropriations may also be needed if a district-wide millage expires and is not immediately renewed.

■ **Bonding.** District library boards may consider bond issues as provided for in the District Library Financing Act. The Library of Michigan advises boards to seek legal counsel before doing so.

Cooperatives and contract agreements

Library cooperatives and contract service agreements can help defray operating costs of all Michigan libraries. A library cooperative is comprised of a number of member libraries, and cooperative libraries may share materials.

An example of a library cooperative is the Woodlands Library Cooperative, which has 36 member libraries from 12 counties in southern Michigan. The cooperative was established after the State Aid to Public Libraries Act, PA 89 of 1977 (MCL 397.551, *et seq.*), mandated a regional structure for public library service. The cooperative does not provide direct service to the public, but does allow for interlibrary loan, delivery service, continuing education for staff and vendor discounts to member libraries—some of the economies of scale afforded by district libraries. However, the cooperative preserves member libraries' local control.

District libraries may also extend services to municipalities that wish to contract for them. The Portage Lake District Library serves a portion of Duncan Township, for which the library receives penal fines and state aid.

"We claim something like 22% of Duncan Township's 300 residents for our state aid allocation," says Jim Curtis, Portage Lake District Library director. According to the state aid formula, the library gets approximately 50 cents per person, or \$38 per year.

Service contracts frequently include some sort of payment in lieu of millage from the township holding the service contract. Townships considering service contracts must compare the cost of full membership in the library district against the service contract cost. They will have no voting representative on the library board, although a non-voting representative can be appointed from the community holding the service contract.

Withdrawing from a district library agreement

However beneficial district libraries have proven to be for many communities, the District Library Establishment Act does allow district members to withdraw. There are a number of reasons local entities withdraw from district library agreements, says Richardson.

"Part of it is that, while residents feel that library service is a good thing, people don't always understand they're establishing a taxing corporation," says Richardson. When taxes go up to support the library, some residents may feel that their needs aren't being addressed. "For example, some residents may have to drive a long way to the library and just don't feel it's worth the cost of supporting it."

Richardson also explains that, because library millage is based on property values, some residents pay more than others for the same library services: "Higher property values don't always mean that residents in those

areas have more disposable income to pay for the library. In addition, agricultural landowners pay lots more taxes than residential landowners."

A defeated library millage vote in a local community is often an indication that residents are unhappy with the district library arrangement, and the local governing board may subsequently take steps to withdraw from the library agreement. This was the case in Stanton Township, which will withdraw from the Portage Lake District Library in November 2000.

In districts supported by a district-wide millage, the withdrawing entity must:

- Adopt a resolution to withdraw at least two months before the next regularly scheduled election to be held in the withdrawing entity. The withdrawal date must be not less than six months after the next regularly scheduled election.

- Place the question of withdrawing from the district library on the ballot at the next regularly scheduled election. Withdrawal must be approved by the majority of electors.

- Send a copy of the official canvass statement and certified copy of the resolution as approved by the voters to the Library of Michigan and the other district member boards.

- Pay any obligations related to the district library.

- Present a plan to the Library of Michigan for continuing library services in the community.

- Residents of a withdrawing entity may continue to use the district library until the approved date for withdrawing from the district.

A local entity withdrawing from a district not supported by district-wide millage must:

- Adopt a resolution to withdraw on a date not less than a year from the date of the resolution. If a district-wide millage is approved after the resolution to withdraw is adopted but before the withdrawal date, the

resolution to withdraw is void. If the community still wishes to withdraw, it must follow the steps above for libraries supported by a district-wide millage.

- File the resolution to withdraw with the Library of Michigan and all other district member boards.

- Pay any obligations owed to the district library.

- Present a plan for continuing library services in the community.

Is a district library right for you?

If your township is interested in a district library, you'll need to carefully assess residents' current and future library needs, as well as the township's financial situation. Here are some things to consider:

- What are the comparative costs to township residents of funding a local township library compared to operating a district library? If the township already has a local library, how could library services be improved by forming or joining a district library?

- If the township is thinking of joining an established district library, how much millage is assessed in the district? How much will that increase taxes for the average resident? Could the township enter into a service contract with another library for less money?

- How can the township help residents understand what a district library agreement means in terms of service, funding and local control?

- How important is local control to the township? Will residents want representation on the district library board? Or will they be satisfied without representation if they can contract for library services for less money?

- What benefits are currently available to local library staff? How would those benefits be affected by joining a district library? How do staff and residents feel about it? ♦



Web Links

Visit the libraries in this story online at:

Library of Michigan: www.libofmich.lib.mi.us/

Delton District Library: <http://cwic1.jackson.lib.mi.us/delton/delton.htm>

Kalamazoo Public Library: www.kpl.gov

Kent District Library: www.kentlibrary.lib.mi.us/

Jordan Valley District Library: <http://nlc.lib.mi.us/members/jvdl/index.html>

Portage Lake District Library: www.uppermichigan.com/pldl/

Romeo District Library: www.libcoop.net/romeo/

Woodlands Library Cooperative: <http://cwic1.jackson.lib.mi.us/woodlands/>

A Tale of Two



KALAMAZOO PUBLIC LIBRARY



PORTAGE LAKE DISTRICT LIBRARY

Libraries

by Jean Hughes Raber, Contributing Writer

While Michigan's 127 district libraries are governed by the same statute, the stories of how they formed and how they are operated and funded vary widely. Here is a tale of two of those libraries: urban Kalamazoo Public Library, one of the larger district libraries in Michigan with five branch libraries and a bookmobile, and rural Portage Lake District Library, serving approximately 16,000 residents in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Kalamazoo Public Library sought financial stability

When the Kalamazoo Public Library, formerly operated by the Kalamazoo Public Schools, considered reorganizing as a district library in 1990, several factors came together to make district status the right choice.

According to Saul Amdursky, library director since 1987, "There had been talk about going independent since the 1960s. The school district was running the schools, a museum and the library, and we all had to compete for funds." In addition, library and school staff were represented by the Michigan Education Association and worked under the same contract, complicating labor relations for the library. By the time school finance reform became an issue in 1994, culminating in Proposal A, which barred school districts from allocating millage to district-operated libraries, the Kalamazoo Public Library had already become the first school district library to convert to district status.

Amdursky says that the 1989 amendments to the District Library Establishment and District Library Financing Acts made it easier for a library to become a district entity with more flexible boundaries. His district is now larger than the original school district it

once served, incorporating the City of Kalamazoo, 90% of Kalamazoo Charter Township, all of Oshtemo Township and 15% of Texas Charter Township.

"We're just like any other local government now," says Amdursky. There are seven board members, all elected at-large, with powers to call millage elections.

Library staff were thrilled to be able to do their own purchasing and receive their own millage outside the 50-mill operating cap imposed on local governing boards. "Previously, if we wanted a desk, we had to find what we wanted and ask the school board for permission to buy it," says Amdursky. "It took four to eight weeks to get here. Now if we order something, we get it the next day."

However, the library did have to hire an accountant, set up its own business office and develop purchasing routines. "How you spend money becomes a different issue. You have to weigh your expenditures," Amdursky says.

Converting to a district library also meant that library staff had a new boss—the district library board. Happily, virtually all staff stayed with the library after the conversion. While Amdursky says there were some "growing pains," staff are still members of the MEA, still plugged into their original retirement programs and working under their own contract, separate from that of the school district's. "Of 70 employees, only three decided to go to the school district," says Amdursky.

The Kalamazoo Public Library derives nearly 90% of its budget from its maximum allowable millage of 4 mills. Only 4 to 5% of the library's budget comes from penal fines and state aid. (The majority of Michigan's libraries depend on these sources for 30% or more of their budgets.) The library's last millage election in 1995 passed with 61% of the vote district-wide.

Amdursky says the biggest factor in the library's success is that "we've always had a good relationship with our patrons, and we have a reputation for keeping our promises." For example, before the 1995 millage election, the library promised patrons several things in exchange for more funding: investment in new buildings, more materials, more teen services and technological improvements.

"We've fulfilled all those promises," says Amdursky, pointing to a building improvement program, a nearly 50% increase in the materials budget, more Internet stations and courses on how to operate the computers, and programs for teenagers, such as the "Pizza and Pages" program. "The trick to getting teenagers in here is to have a good staff—and to feed the teenagers!" says Amdursky. "So we bring in pizza and let them read and write and talk about books."

Michigan District Library Statistics

Total number of Michigan libraries: 381

Total service population: 9.3 million residents

Number of district libraries: 127

Service population: 3.4 million residents

Smallest district library:

Beaver Island District Library (Charlevoix County)

Service population: 404

Number of local entities in district: 2

Number of libraries: 1

Largest district library:

Kent District Library (Kent County)

Service population: 298,644

Number of local entities in district: 29

Number of libraries: 18

**Based on Library of Michigan statistics, 1999*

Portage Lake District Library survived hard times with community support

Historic Portage Lake District Library in Houghton (Houghton County) has weathered several reorganizations and closures since it was built in 1909 for \$15,000 by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie.

Originally operated by the school district, the Houghton Public Library, as it was then known, closed temporarily in 1936, at the height of the Depression. As the mines in the Houghton area played out, hard times forced the library to close again in 1957 and between 1963 and 1964.

After the last closure, the library was reorganized as the Portage Township Library, which also serviced the Village of Houghton. Township voters approved one operating mill to fund the library, which opened in 1965 and has remained open since.

In the 1960s, Adams, Chassell, Duncan, Elm River and Stanton Townships signed service contracts with the library. This allowed the library to receive state aid and penal fines from these townships, increasing its revenue base.

After the Village of Houghton became a city in 1974, the city and Portage Township formed the Portage Lake District Library. Adams, Chassell, Duncan, Elm River and Stanton Townships continued their service contracts with the library, and in 1996 were invited to join the district. Chassell and Stanton Townships joined as full participating municipalities, increasing the library's tax revenues. In 1997, the service contracts with Adams and Elm River



The children's reading area at the Portage Lake District Library.

Income Sources for Michigan Public Libraries

Local sources:

Voted library millage: 52.8%
Appropriated tax: 17.3%
Penal fines: 11.3%
Contract fees: 1.2%
Other local sources: 10.9%

State sources: 6.1%

Federal sources: 0.4%

1999 statistics, from Finance Study Committee Report to the Public Library Funding Initiative Group, June 15, 2000

Townships ended, though the library continues to serve a portion of Duncan Township on contract.

Stanton Township will leave the district in November 2000. However, a May 2000 millage request in the remaining member communities passed resoundingly in favor of the library. The two-mill request passed by 80% of the vote district-wide.

Says Curtis, "The millage approval allows the library district to continue to operate for another year and sends a clear message of voter support. The millage request was made for one year to keep the library running, while gauging voter support without committing the member municipalities to a longer term financial obligation." ♦

The Michigan Society of Planning Presents:

Planning Michigan: Making It Happen

**Michigan's Most Comprehensive Land Use Conference
October 18 - 21, 2000 at Boyne Highlands**

This Years' Features:

- New Urbanism
- Brownfield Redevelopment
- Legislative Reform
- Effective Communication Methods
- Funding Opportunities
- Sustainable Growth
- Walking Tours & Mobile Workshops



PLANNING MICHIGAN
Making it happen!

Register Now!

One Day Training Program available for
Township Planning & Zoning Officials

**Early Registration now through Aug. 31.
See Your Registration Brochure for Details**

**Call 248-553-7526 for more information
Questions? Email mspo@mspo.org**