White Pine Library Cooperative

BENEFITS OF BELONGING TO THE COOPERATIVE
Still a great value for the money!
(APRIL 2011)

COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

49 public libraries, 1 community college and 4 school libraries in the thumb and central Michigan are members of the White Pine Library Cooperative. The Cooperative uses advanced remote technology to support public computer centers in libraries across 6830 square miles.

STATE AID TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES (3 PARTS)

- Library Indirect State Aid. A library has to belong to a cooperative to receive indirect state aid. Indirect state aid is used to pay for cooperative services. Collectively in 2011, White Pine libraries will receive $48,503 indirect state aid.

- Library Direct State Aid. Libraries also get a direct state aid payment that they can use for any local library-related expense. That current amount collectively is $48,503. A library can receive this money without belonging to a cooperative.

- Cooperative State Aid. The cooperative also receives state aid to fund its Service Plan that is developed by member libraries. Cooperative State Aid includes a per square mile payment for a cooperative with a low-density populated area. That current amount is $71,805.

- State Aid is 96% of the Cooperative's Operating Revenue in FY 2011.

ECONOMY OF SCALE

By aggregating demand and group purchasing, the cooperative can negotiate better pricing for its members. Collaboration and consolidation of services result in lower costs for members and greater value from service providers. This allows large and small libraries to obtain services through the Cooperative that they would be unable to afford on their own.

- OCLC CATALOGING AND INTERLIBRARY LOAN.

  - The Cooperative pays a flat annual subscription rate of $10,500 to OCLC so that members can export high quality records into the shared automation system public catalog. Without the advantageous group rate, a library that exports 5,000 records a year would pay $8,800; and, a library that exports 7,000 records a year would pay $12,600.

  - The Cooperative also pays a flat annual subscription rate of $2,200 to OCLC so that libraries can borrow books requested by the public – books that are not owned by libraries participating in the regional or MeLCat statewide shared automation system catalogs.

  - **Overdrive, Inc.** is a group subscription for downloadable electronic audiobooks and ebooks. 39 libraries and branches participate in the Cooperative's Overdrive program. The Cooperative subsidizes the annual subscription and most of the annual fee each library pays goes to purchase new digital titles.

  - The Cooperative's OCLC cataloging subscription allows libraries to obtain catalog records for Overdrive digital books at no additional cost. The Cooperative staff batch loads OCLC records to the shared automation system so that patrons can locate titles either through the main shared catalog or through the Overdrive digital catalog at http://fuelyourmind.lib.overdrive.com/.

- TECHNICAL SUPPORT IS PROVIDED TO MEMBER LIBRARIES BY COOPERATIVE STAFF.

    - Technical support is a valued service among members.

ENHANCED OPPORTUNITIES IN COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP

- **Continuing education** opportunities, including webinars and video conferences, are available to Superiorland member library staff. Several programs and workshops are planned each year.
- **Networking opportunities** are available to cooperative member library staff such as youth services, adult services, Advisory Council meetings and other shared events that the cooperative sponsors. A library not in the cooperative would be more isolated and not have the same opportunities to network and interact with other library staff in the area.
- **Expansion of Library User Opportunities** for accessing library collections. If a library is not a member of the cooperative then people would not enjoy the following:
    - Ability to request older books and have them delivered to their library
    - Access to library collections beyond the walls of the local library. Over 2 million items are available in the shared automation system database.
    - Ability to borrow materials from libraries other than the home library for audio-visual items, new books, programs, computer access, reference desk and other library services.
    - 58% of all people living in the Cooperative's service area have member library borrowers cards and use the shared automation system. 2.9 million books, CDs, DVDs, and other library materials were circulated on this system in 2010, worth over $65,000,000 for shared materials.

OTHER COOPERATIVE SERVICES/ACTIVITIES

- Advocacy to state legislature
- Coordinate advocacy pr materials for cooperative libraries use
- Leadership and communication on library and professional issues
- Group purchases of supplies, equipment, web filtering, etc.
- Consulting offered to member libraries
- Training for library staff that use the shared automation system and cataloging
- Liaison to statewide activities, Library of Michigan, Cooperative Directors Association, and the Michigan Library Association
- Provide an opportunity for libraries to network and gather and share ideas at topical meetings
- Coordinate service contracts such as Movie Licensing USA, Books In Print, and Overdrive
- Access to mobile training lab for in-library training for both staff and public
- Access to both Cooperative staff and equipment in the event of a disaster. The Cooperative would be able to set up a mobile lab and set up a spare router to get a library back online to their automation system within 24 hours in the event of a disaster. As a member of the cooperative, patrons could use other libraries until their home library reopens.