SCCLS
St. Clair County Library System

LIBRARY LINKS







What's Inside

- **Library of Things**
- **New Resources!**
- **Gale In Context: Opposing Viewpoints**

Looking for something to do?
Scan the QR code to view our calander of programs.

Volume 26 Issue 2
Fall & Winter 2026/27

SCCLS Introduces The Library of Things

The St. Clair County Library System (SCCLS) expands traditional library services with its Library of Things. This special collection provides library card holders with access to a wide array of physical, non-traditional items designed to support hands-on learning, creative hobbies, household projects, and community recreation.

What is the Library of Things?
Instead of borrowing just books, audiobooks, or movies, patrons can also borrow practical equipment. The collection includes tools for home improvement and DIY tasks, crafting and hobby kits, board games, outdoor activities, and specialized electronics. By offering shared access to high-value or infrequently used gear, the library helps community members test out new interests or complete home tasks without the upfront costs of buying equipment.

While the physical collection is centralized at the **Main Library in Port Huron**, items can be requested and routed to any local SCCLS branch for convenient pickup.

How to Check Out Items
Borrowing from the collection requires following specific guidelines to help keep items maintained and accessible:

- **Eligibility:** Borrowers must hold an SCCLS library card in good standing and be **18 years of age or older.**
- **Checkout Limits:** Cardholders can check out up to five (5) items from the collection at a time.
- **Loan Period:** Items are lent for two (2) weeks. At this time, renewals are not permitted, ensuring items remain available for other patrons on hold lists.
- **Fees & Costs:** There are no rental fees or security deposits. Borrowers are fully responsible for the items while in their possession and will be billed for lost parts or damage beyond normal wear and tear.
- **Pickup & Holds:** You can browse the collection online via the SCCLS catalog, place a hold on an item, and select your preferred local branch as the pickup destination.
- **Returning Items:** To protect sensitive and bulky equipment, all Library of Things items must be returned in person directly to library staff at same branch where the item/s was borrowed. Items cannot be dropped into outdoor book returns or left outside any branch facility.

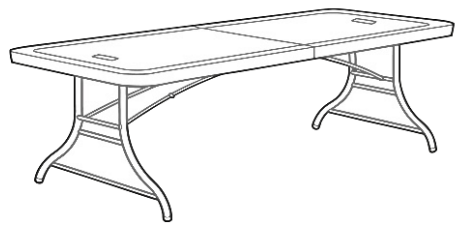
Getting Started
To browse the full catalog or request an item, visit the online catalog or stop by your nearest St. Clair County Library branch to speak with a staff member. Ensure your library card account details are up to date before placing your request.

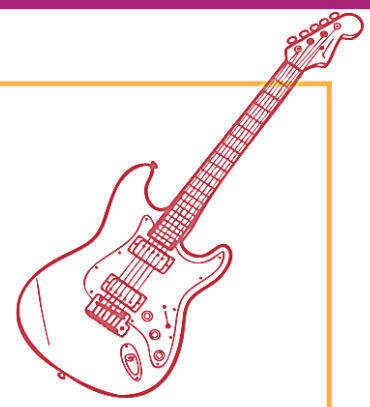


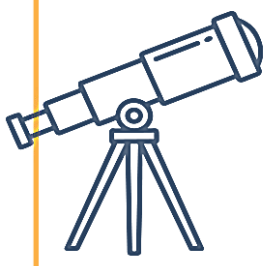
LIBRARY of things

NEW!

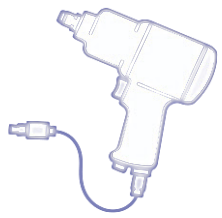








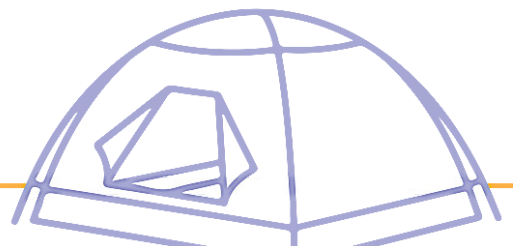
Library of Things



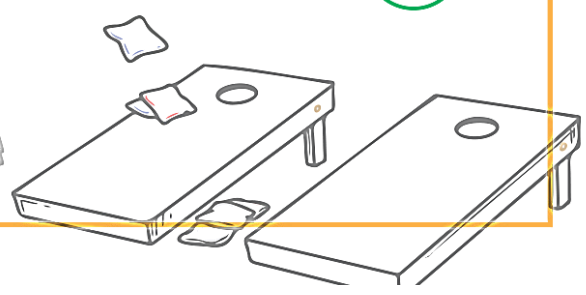
A collection of non-traditional items for you to check out at your library!







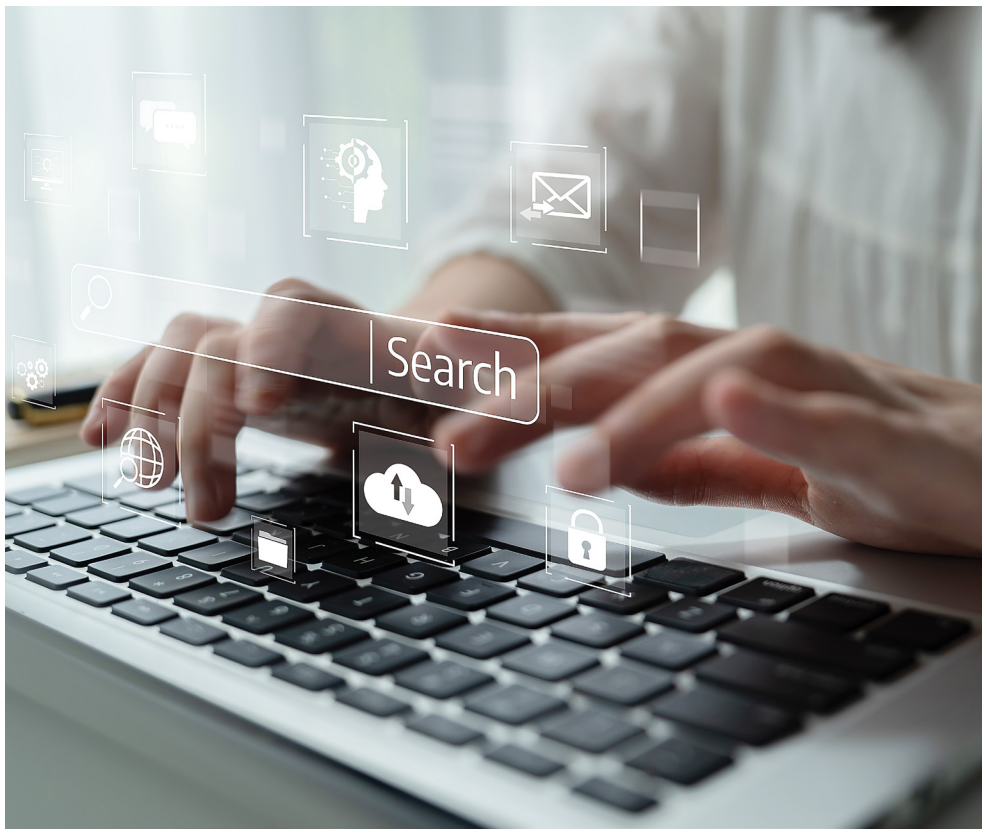




ProQuest U.S. Midwest Newsstream

Through the St. Clair County Library System (SCCLS), cardholders have free access to ProQuest U.S. Midwest Newsstream, a comprehensive digital news resource offered via the Michigan Electronic Library (MeL). This powerful database delivers full-text, searchable coverage from hundreds of regional newspapers across the Midwestern United States, including key publications throughout Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

For local library patrons, ProQuest U.S. Midwest Newsstream serves as an indispensable tool for staying informed about regional affairs, conducting historical research, or following local developments across neighboring states. Readers can explore current issue cover-to-cover as well as backfiles dating back several decades. The platform features prominent major metropolitan dailies—such as the Detroit Free Press, The Detroit News, Chicago Tribune, Star Tribune, and The Plain Dealer—alongside dozens of smaller community and regional news outlets.



Unlike general internet search engines, which often restrict news articles behind paid subscriptions or clutter search results with unverified content, ProQuest offers clean, authoritative, and indexed access to full-text articles, editorials, obituaries, and special reports. Advanced search filters allow users to query specific publication titles, publication dates, author names, or key topics, making it easy to track regional industry trends, analyze economic shifts, or explore family genealogy.

Whether accessed remotely from home using a St. Clair County Library card or directly on-site at any local branch, ProQuest U.S. Midwest Newsstream provides seamless, 24/7 research capabilities. By offering this resource, SCCLS connects the St. Clair County community to essential news coverage and rich historical archives across the entire Midwest—all at no cost to cardholders.



Exploring African American History: The Black Freedom Struggle Database at St. Clair County Library System

The St. Clair County Library System (SCCLS) is committed to providing its patrons with diverse and enriching educational resources. Among its valuable digital offerings is the "Black Freedom Struggle in the United States" database, a powerful tool for exploring the multifaceted history of African Americans. This comprehensive collection, powered by ProQuest, offers a vast array of primary source documents, making it an invaluable resource for students, researchers, and anyone interested in delving deeper into this crucial aspect of American history.

The database chronicles the Black freedom struggle across various pivotal periods, from the Transatlantic Slave Trade and the Reconstruction era to the Civil Rights Movement and the contemporary challenges of the 21st century. Users can access many materials, including historical newspaper articles, pamphlets, speeches, letters, protest movement records, government documents, and oral histories. Imagine reading firsthand accounts from abolitionists, examining legal arguments from landmark civil rights cases, or poring over manifestos from influential Black organizations. The "Black Freedom Struggle" database brings these voices and events directly to your screen, fostering a more nuanced understanding of the fight for equality.

This resource is designed to support a wide range of academic and personal inquiries. Students working on history projects can find primary sources that bring their research to life. Educators can utilize the database to create engaging lesson plans and expose their classes to authentic historical documents. Genealogists might uncover invaluable information about their ancestors' experiences. For the general public, it offers an accessible way to engage with the complex narratives of courage, resilience, and perseverance that define the Black freedom struggle.



How to Access the "Black Freedom Struggle" Database:

Accessing this powerful resource is straightforward for SCCLS cardholders.

1. **Visit the SCCLS Website:** Navigate to the official St. Clair County Library System website.
2. **Click on Search Books & Media:** scroll down to the Specialty Databases section and the Additional Resources sub-section.
3. **Find the ProQuest "Black Freedom" icon:** click 'visit"
4. **Log In (if required):** enter your SCCLS library card number and PIN
5. **Begin Your Exploration:** You'll have full access to the database's extensive collection once logged in. Utilize the search bar, browse by topic, or explore different historical eras to begin your journey into this vital historical record.

The "Black Freedom Struggle" database is more than just a collection of documents; it's a gateway to understanding the profound impact of African American history on the fabric of the United States. Take advantage of this incredible resource offered by your St. Clair County Library System and embark on a journey of discovery.

Gale In Context: Opposing Viewpoints

In an era defined by fast-paced news cycles and endless social media debates, finding reliable, balanced information on complex social issues can be a challenge. To help residents cut through the noise, the St. Clair County Library System provides free access to Gale In Context: Opposing Viewpoints—a premier digital database designed to foster critical thinking, support research, and present balanced perspectives on today's most pressing topics.

Whether you are a student writing an argumentative essay, a debate team member preparing a case, or a curious patron looking to understand current events from multiple angles, Opposing Viewpoints offers an invaluable virtual toolkit. The resource brings together thousands of pro/con viewpoint essays, primary source documents, expert opinion pieces, academic journals, news articles, statistics, and multimedia content. Instead of algorithmically steering users into echo chambers, the platform intentionally showcases diverse viewpoints from reputable publications ranging across the political and analytical spectrums.

Navigating controversial themes—from artificial intelligence and climate policy to public health and economic strategies—requires more than just raw facts; it demands context. Each topic page in Opposing Viewpoints begins with a comprehensive, neutral overview that establishes foundational understanding. From there, users can explore curated commentary, interactive maps, and critical-thinking questions crafted to help readers evaluate arguments, identify bias, and form well-reasoned, independent conclusions.





Accessibility is one of the resource's greatest strengths. St. Clair County Library System cardholders can access Gale In Context: Opposing Viewpoints anytime, anywhere, via the library's online research portal using a computer, tablet, or smartphone. The platform includes built-in research tools that allow patrons to highlight text, add custom notes, download articles directly to Google Drive, and instantly generate accurate citations in formats like APA and MLA—making academic workflows seamless for local students.

By offering robust resources like Gale In Context: Opposing Viewpoints, the St. Clair County Library System continues its mission to empower the community through information literacy. By promoting open inquiry, balanced debate, and evidence-based learning, the library equips residents of all ages with the tools needed to engage thoughtfully with the world around them. To start exploring, visit the St. Clair County Library System website and log in with your library card today.

Unlocking Unlimited Learning: the Michigan Electronic Library (MeL)

For patrons of the St. Clair County Library System (SCCLS), a library card is far more than a key to local shelves. It serves as a digital passport to millions of physical items and subscription-grade online databases through the Michigan Electronic Library, commonly known as MeL. By bridging the gap between local branch resources and statewide collections, SCCLS ensures that every resident—from Port Huron to Clay Township—has free, equitable access to top-tier research tools, educational materials, and entertainment.

At the heart of this partnership is MeLCat, the interlibrary loan service integrated directly into the state network. While SCCLS maintains a robust collection across its branches, no single library system can house every book, media item, or specialized text in existence. MeLCat solves this challenge by connecting participating public, academic, and school libraries across Michigan into a single, seamless catalog. If a cardholder is searching for an out-of-print genealogy volume, a niche academic text, or a hard-to-find copy of a favorite novel, they can request it through MeLCat. The item is shipped directly to their home SCCLS branch for convenient local pickup—all free of charge.

Beyond physical items, the Michigan Electronic Library expands digital possibilities for St. Clair County residents through its vast collection of eResources. Rather than running into paywalls or rely on unfiltered web searches, cardholders can tap into authoritative databases powered by leading educational platforms. Students drafting research papers gain 24/7 access to peer-reviewed academic journals, historical archives, and specialized encyclopedias. Job seekers and entrepreneurs can leverage comprehensive business databases, consumer reports, and career test-preparation software.

Michigan eLibrary
Supporting Michigan Libraries

Families and educators also benefit immensely from MeL's targeted learning hubs. Specialized portals like MeL Kids offer age-appropriate research databases, interactive early literacy tools, and e-books designed to support early learning and homework needs. Auto enthusiasts and DIYers can utilize specialized repair manuals, while genealogists can dive into ancestral records—all verified, secure, and completely free.



Accessing these expansive benefits is remarkably straightforward. St. Clair County residents only need an active library card and an internet connection to log in to MeL.org or initiate holds through the catalog. By continuously promoting and integrating these statewide capabilities, the St. Clair County Library System reaffirms its commitment to lifelong learning, equal opportunity, and digital empowerment across the community.

SCCLS Legal Resources

The St. Clair County Library System (SCCLS) serves a vital role in civic life by operating as the official Law Library for St. Clair County. Designed to provide accessible legal research tools to community members, self-represented litigants, students, and legal professionals, the system offers a robust mix of digital and print resources aimed at demystifying state and federal law.

The core of the library's legal collection is hosted online, granting patrons convenient access to essential legal tools both in person across its 11 branch locations and remotely from home using a library card. Key resources featured through the SCCLS Law Library portal include comprehensive reference databases, statutorily mandated publications, and guided legal search directories. Patrons can research Michigan statutes, local ordinances, legislative publications, and court rules, or access legal professional directories like Martindale-Hubbell and free legal databases such as Justia. Additionally, as a member of the Federal Depository Library Program, SCCLS connects residents to a wealth of government information, public listings, and official administrative guides.

While the library system is committed to facilitating information literacy and open access to legal materials, staff maintain strict professional boundaries. Library staff members are trained to assist patrons with locating databases, finding relevant statutory codes, and navigating research software; however, they are not attorneys and cannot offer legal advice, interpret laws, assist with drafting legal documents, or speak on behalf of government agencies. Patrons requiring legal representation, form-filling guidance, or counsel are regularly referred to local legal aid organizations, private attorneys, or state assistance programs. Through these balanced offerings, SCCLS ensures that crucial legal context and public documentation remain freely available to all residents.

LearningExpress Library

The St. Clair County Library System provides cardholders with free access to LearningExpress Library, a comprehensive digital learning platform tailored for academic enhancement, skill-building, and professional development. Designed for learners—from high school students to adults transitioning into new careers—this resource offers an extensive suite of interactive practice tests, tutorials, study guides, and test prep tools.

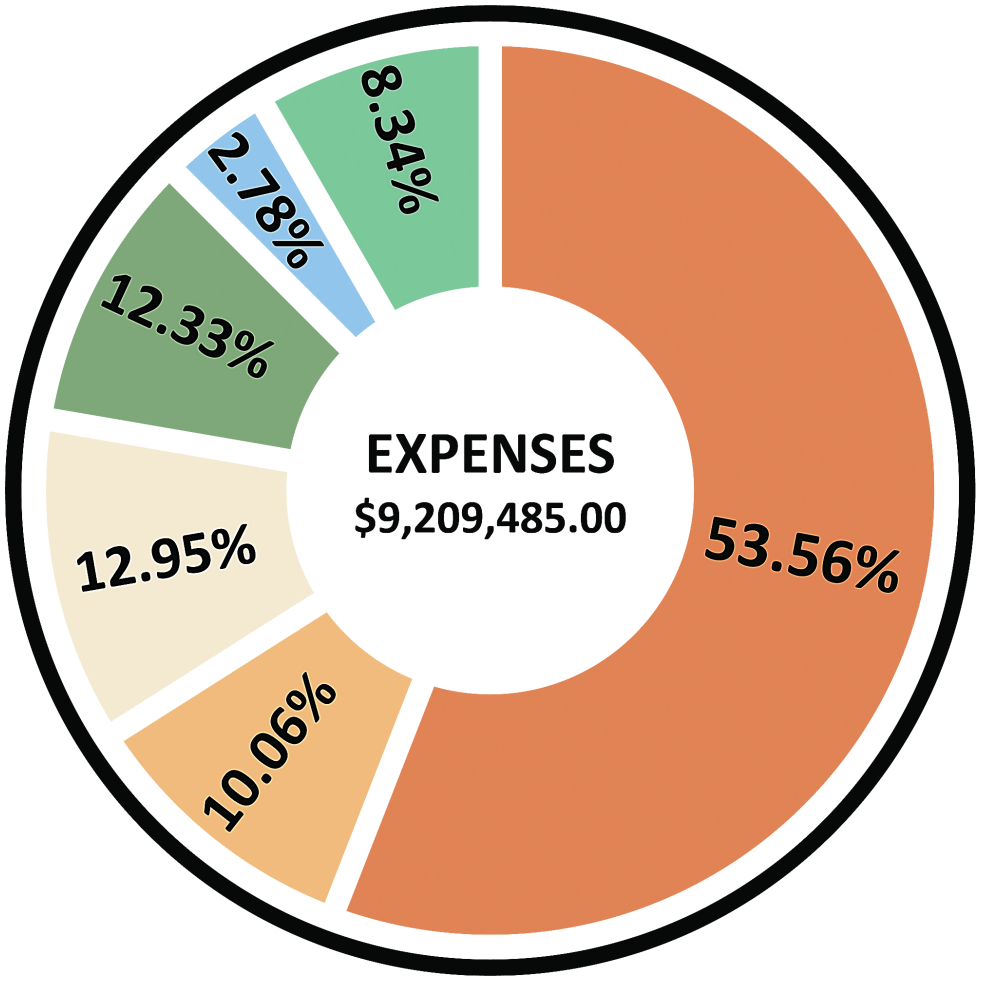
LearningExpress features distinct centers tailored to specific goals. Students can prepare for standardized exams like the SAT, ACT, GED, or GRE through realistic practice tests that offer immediate scoring and detailed answer explanations. Job seekers and professionals benefit from career preparation modules that include licensing exam practice for fields such as nursing, teaching, law enforcement, and real estate, as well as resume creation tools and workplace skill refresher courses. Additionally, foundational skill-building tools help users improve math, reading, grammar, and computer literacy at their own pace.

Accessing LearningExpress Library requires only an active St. Clair County Library System card and an internet connection.
How to Access LearningExpress

1. **Visit the Library Website:** Go to the official St. Clair County Library System website (stclaircountylibrary.org).
2. **Navigate to Search Books & Media:** Click on the Michigan Electronic Library (MeL) button.
3. **Locate LearningExpress** under the "L" tab and click the LearningExpress Tab
4. **Create a Free Personal Account:** Once redirected to the LearningExpress portal, register for a free individual user profile. This account allows you to save test progress, track score improvements over time, and resume video tutorials right where you left off.



SCCLS Revenue & Expenditures - 2025



Personnel — 53.56%
$4,932,171.00

Services — 12.95%
$1,192,091.00

Library Material — 12.33%
$1,135,196.00

County Appropriation — 10.06%
$925,837.00

Capital Outlay — 8.34%
$767,933.00

Supplies — 2.78%
$256,257.00

89.29% **Taxes (Millage)**
$9,463,243.00

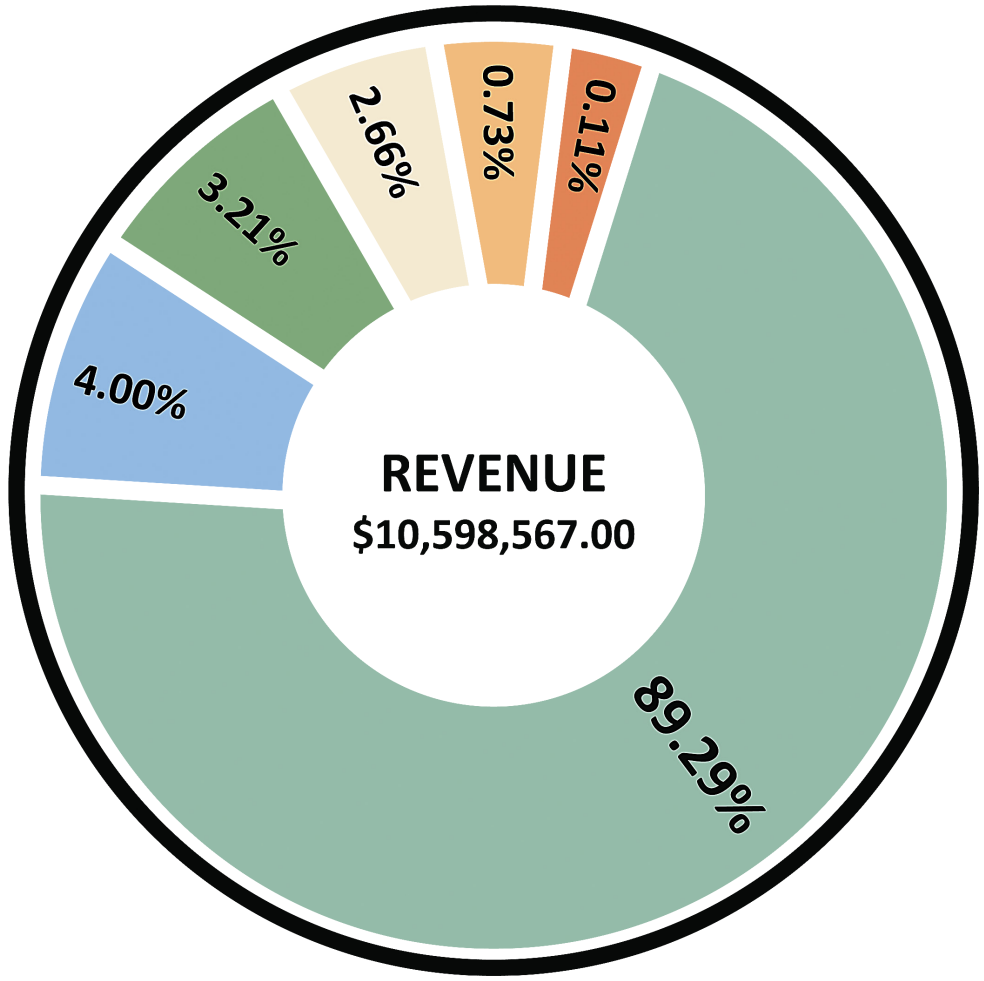
4.00% **Intergovernmental**
$424,295.00

3.21% **Interest Revenue**
$339,745.00

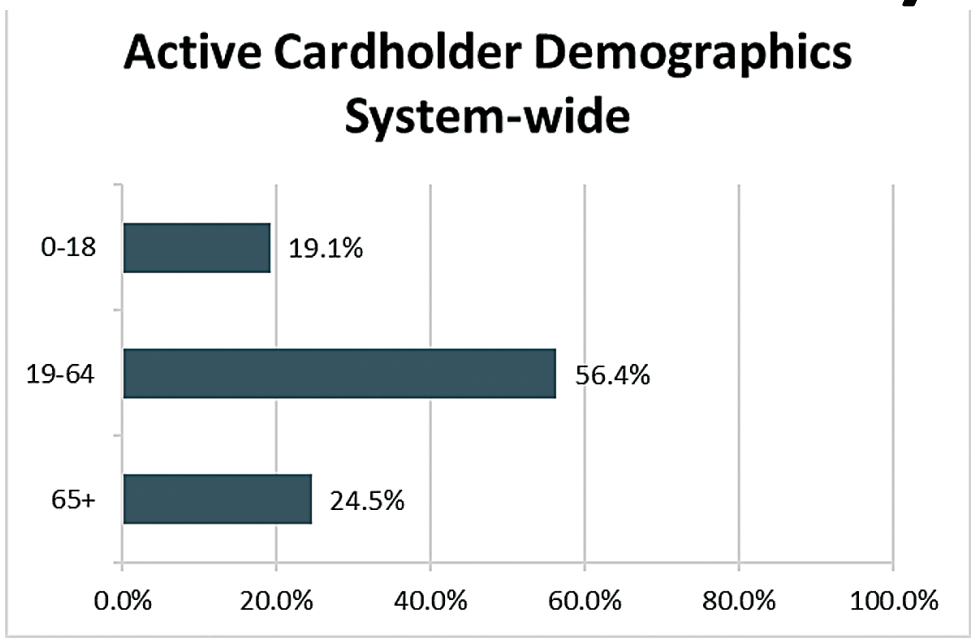
2.66% **Penal Fines**
$281,805.00

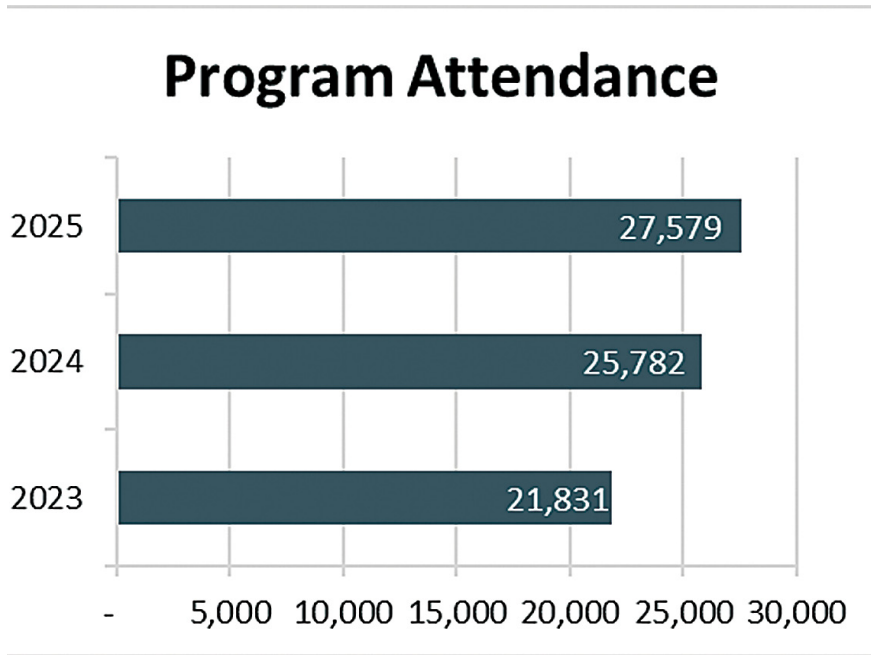
0.73% **Charges for Service**
$77,581.00

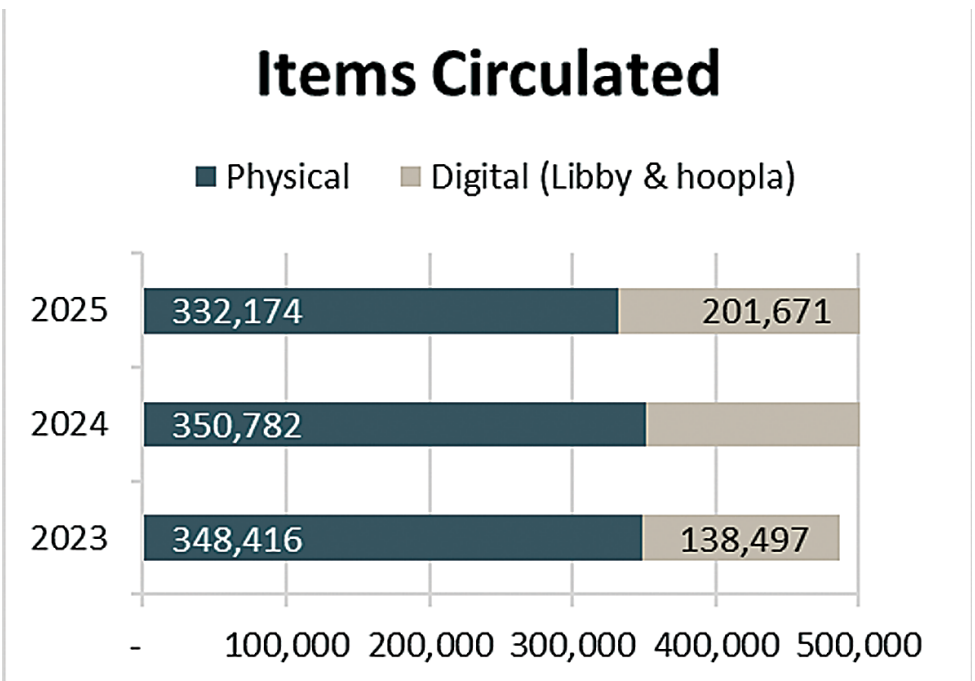
0.11% **Other**
$11,898.00

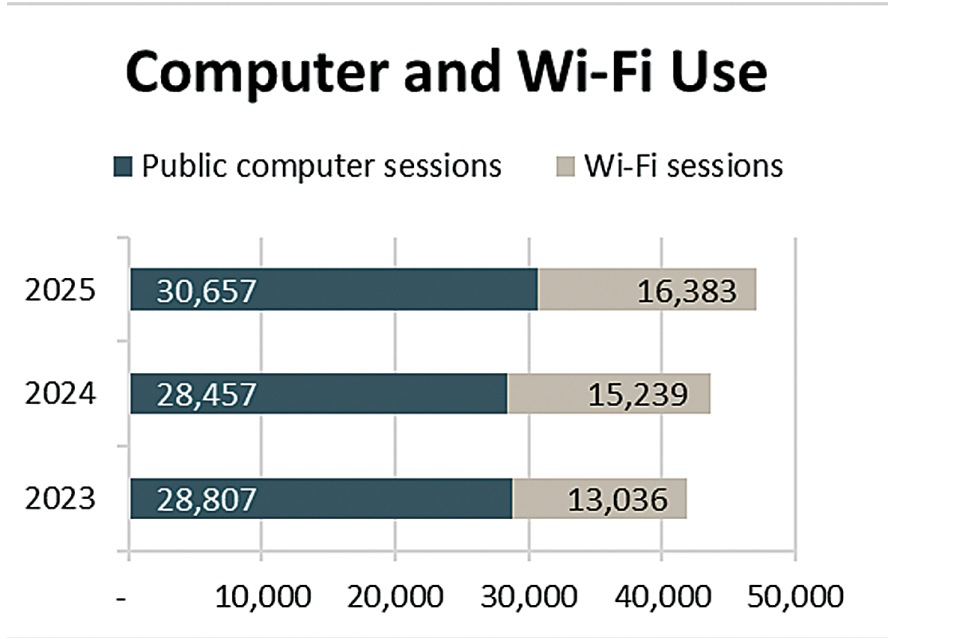


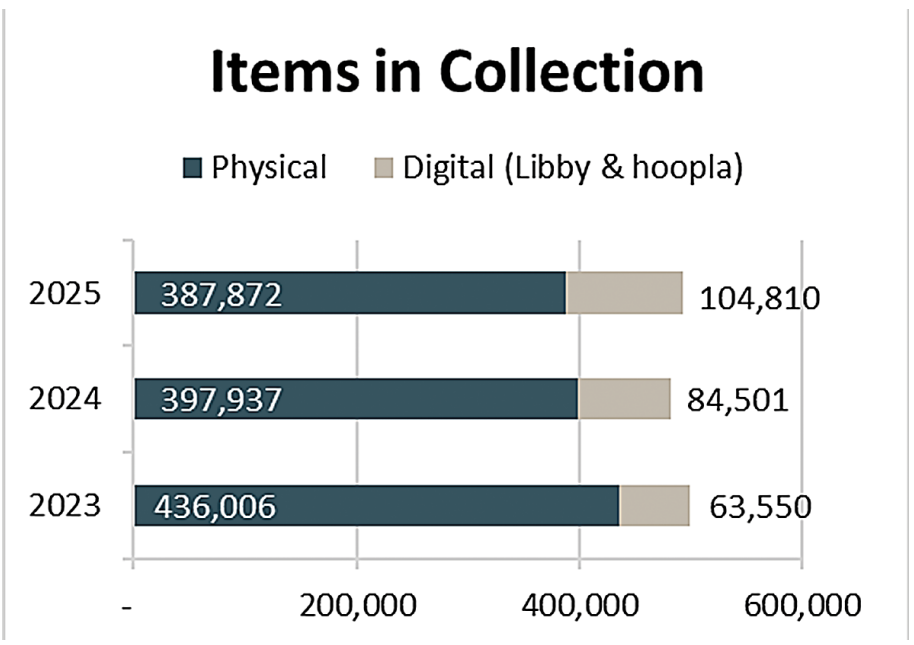
SCCLS Library Statistics - 2025













Our Mission

Discover. Learn. Grow.

Board of Trustees

District 1: Andrea W. Cansfield (Trustee)
District 2: Elizabeth R. Buckley (Vice-Chairperson)
District 3: Stacey A. Lauwers (Trustee)
District 4: Michael P. McCartan (Chairperson)
District 5: Theresa H. Daugherty (Trustee)

System Director

Allison Arnold, MLIS



Friends Groups: A Vital Support System for St. Clair County Libraries

Friends of the Library groups are essential volunteer organizations that provide invaluable support to the St. Clair County Library System (SCCLS). These dedicated groups act as dynamic partners, enhancing library services and outreach beyond what public funding alone can achieve.

The core value of Friends groups lies in their ability to fundraise and advocate. Through popular events like used book sales, dues, and donations, Friends groups generate crucial revenue. This money often goes directly toward purchasing materials, funding educational and entertaining programs, sponsoring author visits, and acquiring new furniture and technology that benefits the entire community.

Beyond financial support, Friends members serve as vital advocates for the SCCLS. They mobilize community support for library initiatives and raise awareness about the library's importance as a civic and educational hub.

By volunteering their time and resources, Friends groups ensure the St. Clair County libraries remain vibrant, modern, and capable of meeting the diverse needs of their patrons. To lend your support, enhance your local branch, and become a part of this valuable network, contact your local library branch to inquire about joining their Friends group today.



SCCLS
St. Clair County Library System

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #792
ROYAL OAK, MI 48068

ECRWSSEDDM
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

Your library accepts:

$5 minimum

24/7 Wi-Fi available!

The St. Clair County Library Board of Trustees meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm
November 17, & December 8, January 26, February 23, March 23, April 27, May 25
Contact the Library for the location.

Hours and Locations

Port Huron - Main
210 McMorran Blvd.
Port Huron (810) 987-7323
L.A.M.T.B. (800) 272-8570
Mon - Thur 9:00-8:00
Fri 9:00 - 5:00
Sat 9:00 - 5:00

Algonac - Clay Twp.
2011 St. Clair River Dr.
Algonac (810) 794-4471
Mon - Thur 9:00-8:00
Fri 9:00 - 5:00
Sat 9:00 - 5:00

Burtchville Twp.
7093 Second St.
Lakeport (810) 385-8550
Mon, Wed, Fri, & Sat 9:00 - 5:00
Tue, Thur 12:00 - 8:00

Capac
111 N. Main
Capac (810) 395-7000
Mon-Thur 9:00 - 8:00
Fri 9:00 - 5:00
Sat 9:00 - 5:00

G. Lynn Campbell
1955 N. Allen Rd.
Kimball (810) 982-9171
Mon, Wed, Fri, & Sat 9:00 - 5:00
Tue, Thur 12:00 - 8:00

Bookmobile
(810) 201-6622
Bookmobile@sccl.lib.mi.us

Ira Twp.
7013 Meldrum Rd.
Fair Haven (586)-725-9081
Mon, Wed, Fri, & Sat 9:00 - 5:00
Tue, Thur 12:00 - 8:00

Marine City
300 S. Parker St.
Marine City (810) 765-5233
Mon - Thur 9:00-8:00
Fri 9:00 - 5:00
Sat 9:00 - 5:00

Marysville
1175 Delaware
Marysville (810) 364-9493
Mon - Thur 9:00-8:00
Fri 9:00 - 5:00
Sat 9:00 - 5:00

Memphis
34830 Potter St.
Memphis (810) 392-2980
Mon, Wed, Fri, & Sat 9:00 - 5:00
Tue, Thur 12:00 - 8:00

St. Clair
310 S. Second St.
St. Clair (810) 329-3951
Mon - Thur 9:00-8:00
Fri 9:00 - 5:00
Sat 9:00 - 5:00

Yale
2 Jones St.
Yale (810) 387-2940
Mon - Thur 9:00-8:00
Fri 9:00 - 5:00
Sat 9:00 - 5:00

@stclaircountylibrarysystem

Your Library System will be closed:
November 11, 26, 27, December 24, 25, 31, January 1, 18, Feb. 15, & May 24