What is a Cooperative?
Cooperatives encourage communication among libraries and help them deliver quality services to their communities. Cooperatives work with their member libraries, other Cooperatives, library associations, the Library of Michigan, the State of Michigan, government and other organizations to develop and coordinate high quality services for the benefit of Michigan’s residents in the most cost effective manner.

Resource Sharing
Lakeland coordinates Interlibrary loan of books and audiovisual materials through a centralized delivery service to move materials among libraries. Lakeland also maintains a shared catalog and joint lists of materials, as well as assisting with internet access for member libraries.

Continuing Education
Lakeland offers workshops for staff training and professional development, both digitally and in-person. We also have a collection of professional materials available for consultation. Lakeland also hosts and endorses institutes for leadership training for trustees and library staff.

Support Services
Lakeland provides an array of support services, such as professional consultation and referrals, cataloging and processing of library materials, access to publications and programming support materials, as well as joint project development. Lakeland also provides assistance in implementing statewide advocacy initiatives.
COOPERATIVES IN MICHIGAN

- Cooperative-negotiated discounts save Michigan libraries approximately $10,000,000 per year on purchases
- Cooperatives organize training for approximately 4,000 library staffers each year.
- Academic, Public, School and Special libraries participate in Cooperative activities and planning