

# Superiorland Library Cooperative and Upper Peninsula Region of Library Cooperation

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## History and Purpose

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### Superiorland

- Superiorland (SLC) is a unit of local government authorized and funded by Public Act 89 (PA89) of 1977.
- In the late 60s and early 70s, the directors of library systems in Michigan began discussions on the need for more efficient system to provide regional library services. The group met regularly for several years and developed the document that would become PA89 in 1977.
- PA89 called for member driven cooperatives, meaning the services offered by the cooperative were in line with the needs of the libraries. Library cooperatives were created to provide member libraries with access to resource sharing, training, communications and library development. PA 89, or the "State Aid to Public Libraries Act", allowed cooperatives to be established specifically to serve and support public libraries.
- SLC is funded by a portion of state aid based on the population served, a portion of state aid paid to member libraries for the purchase of services, and a portion of state aid based on the population density of the overall service area . The cooperative approach preserves local control while taking full advantage of the wealth of resources that a larger service area makes possible.
- SLC has a 9-member governing board appointed annually by public library members. Voting positions rotate to provide representation for all size libraries.

### UPRLC

- The Upper Peninsula Region of Library Cooperation (UPRLC) is a 501(c)3 Michigan nonprofit corporation.
  - By 1980, academic, school, public and special libraries across the Upper Peninsula were investigating plans for a shared automated bibliographic database that could be utilized by all libraries. Because SLC is specifically tasked with serving public libraries, a separate organization needed to form to pursue multi-type library collaboration. UPRLC was established in the early 1980s for this purpose - to develop systems for facilitating the sharing of resources between multi-type libraries in the U.P.
  - As automated systems came online in the late 1990s, UPRLC contracted with SLC to operate the automated system for the remaining 80 libraries.
  - Today, UPRLC also hosts an annual conference for U.P. and northern lower Michigan libraries, collaborates with members on grant applications, and hosts the Unexpected Partnerships mentorship program.
  - UPRLC's 501(c)3 nonprofit status allows the organization to seek grant and foundation funding that is otherwise not available to governmental nonprofits like SLC.
  - UPRLC is a membership organization with a governing board elected from among all members at its annual conference.
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