



The Milwaukee Public Library Foundation (MPLF) was established in 1988 by a volunteer group of civic leaders with impressive foresight who understood that a great library must be enriched with private contributions in addition to tax-based support. The mission of MPLF is to provide essential funding through private contributions for educational and enriching materials, innovative programs, and state-of-the-art facilities to ensure Milwaukee Public Library's standing as a 21st century library responsive to community needs.

Governed by a 23-member board of directors, along with 5 staff members, the foundation has enabled the renovation of the Central Library, provided enhancements to new and existing branch libraries, enriched collections, funded expanded programs and improved services. In its 29 years of operation, MPLF has raised over \$29 million to help the library continue to evolve as a world class library system.

Milwaukee Public Library (MPL) is a transformational institution for people from all walks of life who utilize its services to achieve their personal and professional goals. MPL has a rich history dating back to 1878 when the State Legislature authorized the City to establish a public library. In 1898 the Central Library opened its doors at its current location at 814 W. Wisconsin Avenue. Over the years MPL expanded its services to more Milwaukeeans by establishing book depositories at several locations, including space in grocery and department stores. By the 1960s, MPL launched a building program to replace the storefront libraries and build large, new MPL branches throughout the city. Today there are 13 neighborhood libraries, each of which serves a population of about 50,000 people.

Today, the library has over 2.5 million items in its collection and makes this information available in a wide variety of formats. Librarians offer innovative programming to meet the community's evolving needs as well as personal assistance for finding and using information. The citizens of Milwaukee continue to recognize MPL as a critical resource that enhances the quality of life for the community and its members. Each year, over 2 million citizens enter the doors of an MPL branch eager to expand their horizons and enrich their lives with our rich array of informational resources, staff expertise, and community programming there to help them achieve their educational and personal goals.