

# Visit MeL!

<http://mel.org>



The Michigan eLibrary (MeL) is your 24-hour link to **quality information** on virtually any topic. Vetted by professionals for resources that are **reliable, timely** and virtually **free of advertising**, MeL features an **easy-to-use gateway** that allows you to find resources by subject or apply search terms in a "multisearch" of various material types, whether books and audiovisual materials, magazine and newspaper articles, digitized resources, indexes, ebooks, and/or web resources.

## The Michigan eLibrary comprises:

### 1.) The MeL "Best of the Web" collection of resources by subject

- One of the first Internet subject collections, now in a pathfinder format
- Sites are chosen by professional librarians, with emphasis placed on Michigan

### 2.) MeL Magazines, Newspapers, eBooks, Practice Tests, and more!

**For Michigan residents only:** from your library, from your library's Web page or from anywhere else you have an Internet connection (with your driver's license or state ID):

- \$3.6 million worth of electronic resources (more than 40 subscription databases) purchased by the Library of Michigan for Michigan residents
- MeL includes millions of articles from over 45,000 indexed magazines and newspapers (close to 9,000 of which are full text)
- MeL ebook collection consists of 21,000 full text non-fiction titles
- Additional databases include academic and career-prep practice tests, genealogy resources, consumer health information and much more

### 3.) MeLCat

**For Michigan residents only:** a catalog of over 7 million unique titles and over 20 million holdings (and growing!) from libraries around the state.

- Patrons from participating libraries can borrow books, CDs, and movies from other libraries at no charge
- Fast delivery—most items sent to the patron's library in 2 days
- Almost 150 libraries (public, academic, school and special) are currently participating in MeLCat

4.) MeL Michigana, a growing selection of digitized statewide historical resources including manuscripts, photographs, audio files, etc.

- Making of Modern Michigan. Archives of Michigan, Civil War diaries and more

## The Michigan eLibrary can help you find the answers!

### What do you want to know?

- ✓ How to start a small business in Michigan?
- ✓ Date of the next lunar eclipse?
- ✓ Titles of award-winning children's books?
- ✓ Latest research on skin-cancer treatment?
- ✓ Where to find tax forms?
- ✓ Information about prescription drugs?
- ✓ How to make homemade bubbles?
- ✓ Where to find a job in Michigan?

### FAQs About Driver's License Access to MeL

#### Why do I have to use my driver's license or state ID to use certain parts of MeL?

The Library of Michigan purchased this \$3.6 million collection of resources for exclusive use by Michigan residents. The login process simply provides reasonable assurance to the database providers that the user is a Michigan resident.

#### What if I don't have a driver's license?

You can use a state ID instead. State IDs are issued at Secretary of State offices for a nominal fee (under \$10). There is no age requirement to get an ID but you must prove you are a Michigan resident. IDs are valid for four years. For more details including required documentation see <http://michigan.gov/sos>.



#### What about user privacy?

The method used by the Library of Michigan to verify that a user is a Michigan resident does not give us access to any personal or driving record information. The log-on is via a secure Web server and log-on numbers are not captured or stored.

#### What about access for children?

Children may use a parent's license number (with permission, of course) or parents may get state IDs for their children. There is no age requirement to get a state ID.



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