

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY TEA

The public is invited and we encourage you to join the Friends as they play an important role in the future of the Library. Please join us for a lovely traditional tea.



February 13th
1:00 PM

Join Us In Celebrating

100 YEARS



February 18th
Look for event details soon at
www.pldl.org

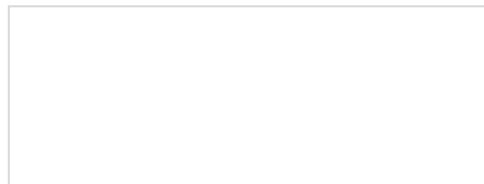


3
Days A
Week

Wednesday 10:15am
Thursday 10:15am
Friday 1:15pm

Portage Lake
District Library

58 Huron Street, Houghton, MI 49931



WINTER 2010

in this issue >>>

- From the Director
- The Library as an Investment
- Tax Preparation Services
- Michigan eLibrary Resources
- Resource Spotlight: NoveList



Portage Lake District Library



current topics >>>

Public Libraries Are A Wise Investment

Statistically it is found that for every \$1.00 you invest in your library, you receive approximately \$2 - \$6 in return to your community.

How Much Does the Library Cost?

The library's primary source of revenue is a 2 mil levy of the residents of Houghton, Chassell, and Portage Township.

	Average Annual Tax Per Household	Monthly Cost
Houghton	\$84	\$7.00
Chassell	\$73	\$6.08
Portage	\$55	\$4.58

Library Value Calculator

Buying two books, renting two movies, and subscribing to the Mining Gazette in a year would cost you approximately \$203.

Find out how much the Portage Lake District Library saves you by trying our Library Use Value Calculator at www.pldl.org/worth.html

From The Director

Shawn Leche, M.B.A., M.L.S.

Included in this newsletter are a host of features available to you from your computer at home. These databases are featured in this issue. Additionally you will see by township how much the average taxpayer spends in taxes for their library services.

The Portage Lake District Library will present the evening of March 16, the following program. We will host Marquette author and NMU Professor, James McCommons, presenting his new book entitled, "Waiting on a Train: The Embattled Future of Passenger Rail Service." We have purchased three copies; it is getting great reviews and was selected as an Editor's Pick by *Library Journal* in fall, 2009.

The author talks about the experience of writing the book and presents a Powerpoint of images and information from his research. He is very knowledgeable and has a warm, engaging manner. His program is about 45 minutes, but people may stop to ask questions at the end of his presentation.

Tax Preparation Services February 2 – April 7

For the third consecutive year, a free income tax service is being offered at the Portage Lake District Library. This service is sponsored nationally by AARP Tax Aide and locally by RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program). The emphasis of this service is on helping senior citizens and low income people file their income taxes. This service is free and includes free E File. Each volunteer receives 30 hours of training and is recertified each year. **Tax Aide is available at the library starting**



February 2 and will end on April 7. This service is available every Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and every Wednesday from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. We will begin taking appointments later in January. To make an appointment, people may call the library at 482-4570.



58 Huron Street
Houghton, MI 49931

906-482-4587
906-482-2129 (fax)

HOURS
Monday – Thursday 10am – 8pm
Friday 10am – 5pm
Saturday 10am – 3pm

See what you can do @ www.pldl.org

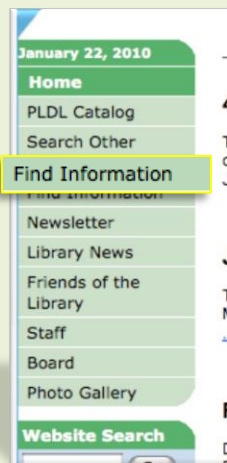


- Renew your materials
- Search the catalogs of libraries statewide
- Place holds for materials
- Place interlibrary loan requests
- Stay abreast of the latest library news and events

FOLLOW THE PLDL ON facebook

The Michigan eLibrary (MeL)

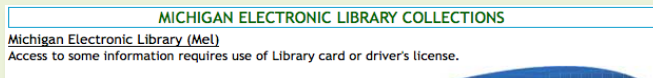
MeL is the Michigan eLibrary, an anywhere, anytime library for Michigan residents.



Administered by the Library of Michigan in partnership with Michigan libraries like the Portage Lake District Library, the Michigan eLibrary provides all Michigan residents with free access to online full-text articles, full-text books, digital images, and other valuable research information at any time via the Internet; and provides an easy-to-use interlibrary loan system to

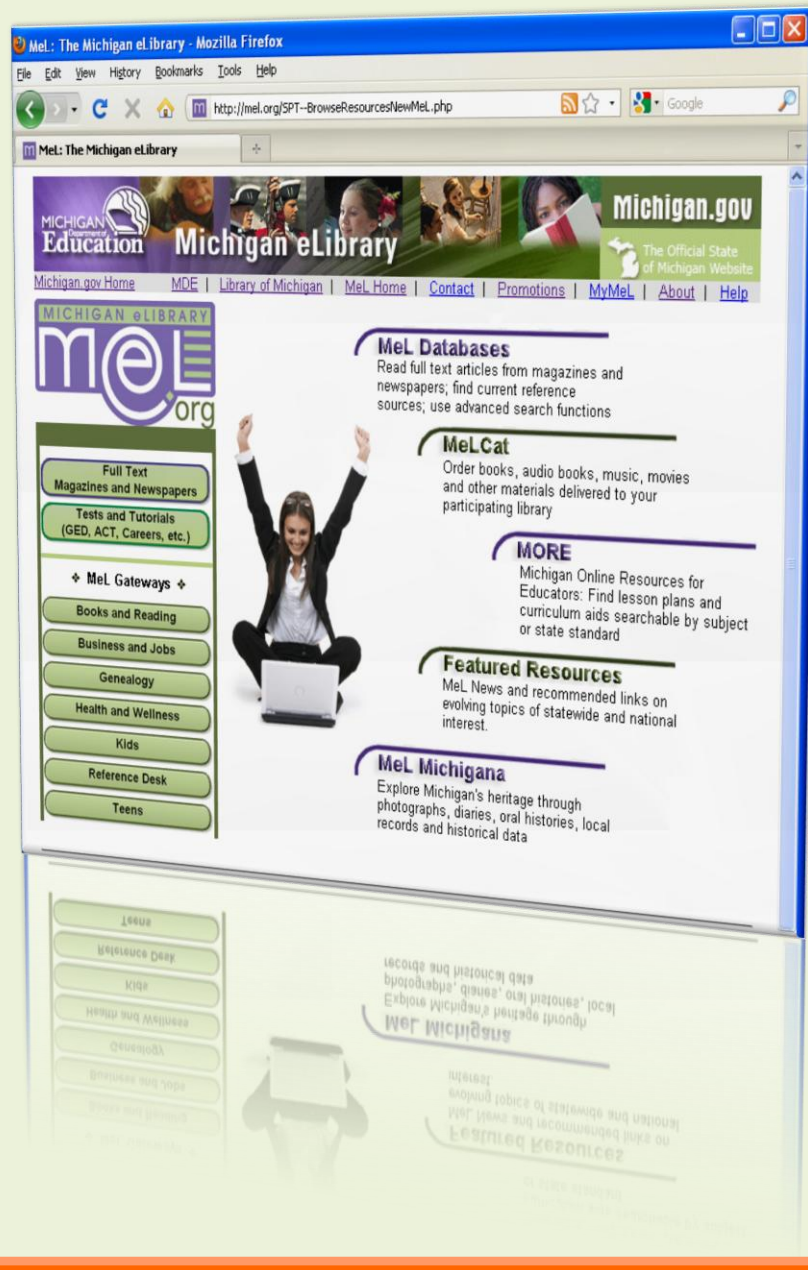
allow Michigan residents to borrow books and other library materials for free from participating Michigan libraries.

The **MeL Databases** contain magazine, newspaper and journal articles, digital books, and online tests. These can be used by any resident of the state at no charge 24 hours/day. MeL contains many general resources that cover all subject areas, plus it has resources specifically for children and older students. MeL also includes specialized resources such as those in health, business, test preparation, genealogy, careers and education.



The Michigan eLibrary can be accessed through the Portage Lake District Library website (www.pldl.org) from any computer with an internet connection.

Click on the **FIND INFORMATION** tab on the front page and tab and scroll down for the link to **MeL**.



Take a Closer Look

This space is inadequate to even hint at the possibility of the choices you can explore in the MeL Database & Full Text system. Here are a few examples to get your feet wet:

ChiltonLibrary.com The most authoritative automotive repair information available to car owners. There are thousands of year, make, and model combinations covering the most popular vehicles of the past 30 years, plus additional coverage of specialty models.

Michigan Authors and Illustrators A searchable database of Michigan authors and illustrators. Also provides biographical and contact information.

Health Reference Center Provides access to professional and personal health magazines, journals and reference sources.

Consumer Reports Searchable database of full text articles including product reviews for items such as digital cameras, high definition televisions, and personal computers. Issues as far back as 1999.

What Do I Read Next? A database to help you decide what to read next. Search by character, topic, setting, time period, genre, title, author and series. Will also make recommendations based upon likes and dislikes.

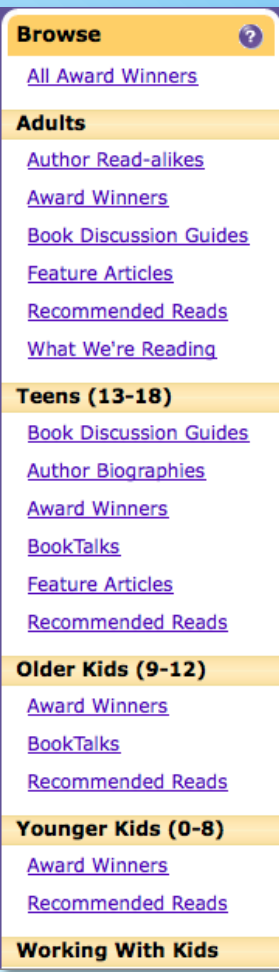
MeL provides access to over 40 different databases and allows users to search across databases, library catalogs, and the internet.

resource spotlight >>>



NoveList helps to find the next best fiction book to read. Search by author, title, series, plots, or even books like the one you just finished. Browse lists of award winners, lists of genres, and lists based on age. Create and save lists of your own favorites. Find book discussion guides and more. NoveList has something for children, young adults, and adults, plus specific information for teachers, and librarians.

NoveList is available to PLDL patrons as a part of the MeL databases.



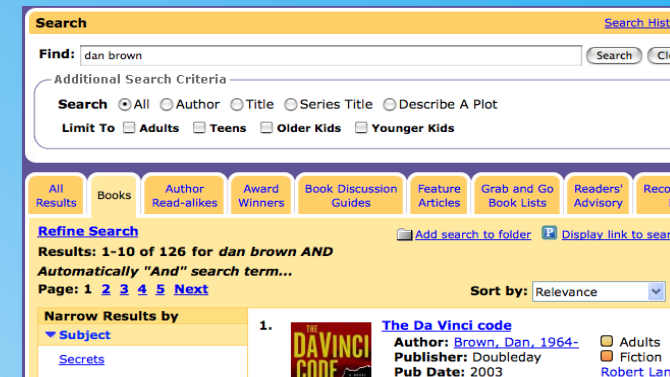
BROWSING

You can find the browsing navigation menu along the left side of the front page. Categories are broken down by age group.



SEARCHING

NoveList allows you to do advanced search beyond simple author and title. With rise in popularity of book series, NoveList can help keep you on track. If you've heard about a book but can't remember the title try the *Describe A Plot* search function. All search results can be further broken down by category to speed things up.



READER ADVISORY AND AUTHOR READ-ALIKES

If you've read everything written by your favorite author and are still hungry for more, check out NoveList's reader advisory and author read-alikes. Reader advisory will give you a critical analysis of the author's work along with subject headings that you can then use to search for similar works. Author read-alikes makes direct comparisons with similar works of content and style and gives you suggested titles to read.

Dan Brown
by Joyce Saricks

Genre: Suspense

Although **Dan Brown** published his first novel, *Digital Fortress*, in 1998, it is his 2003 title *Code*, that has skyrocketed him to national prominence as a writer of suspenseful, atmospheric Stories, overflowing with tantalizing tidbits of science, history, art, and religion. It has a wide range of readers of Mysterier, featuring intricate secrets, decepti...

Read-alikes:

Fans of Brown's mix of Thriller, Suspense, and Adventure, along with numerous other titles might try **John Case**. Like Brown, Case blends conspiracies involving science and fast-paced Suspense Stories which star an everyman caught in a dangerous situation to save himself and often others. While any of Case's titles may satisfy fans, *The Vatican* has connections to the world of art and the Vatican. Here, starving artist-private in...