

# @your library

**CONNECT** *Dream* DISCOVER  
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A stylized graphic of several books of varying heights and colors (black, grey, white) standing upright.

## What's new with MeL

If you haven't explored Michigan e-Library's (MeL) **The NovelList** feature yet, you are missing out on a great source of ideas.

Just in case you're missing out entirely on MeL, it's easy enough to find. Go to the library's website ([www.wicksonlibrary.org](http://www.wicksonlibrary.org)) and note the big MeL icon/link on the homepage. Everything that next appears is clear, colorful, and big – no tiny type on this page. It is designed so that you can locate your area of interest quickly.

Along the top of the MeL site, there's a link to the NovelList. It takes you to a page where you can find the types of book you like without knowing the name of them first. It's like a personal suggestion list. You can select from a list of possibilities what kind of books you like – such as “character-driven and haunting” or “menacing and intensifying.” You can browse genres (try it – it's fun) plus find books that are like other books you might have read. This is a great way to search for your next book even if you don't order it from MeL. For those who want to keep up on books being discussed in the popular media, there's even a “have you heard the Buzz” section which tells you what books are “currently trending from Fox News to NPR.” Right now, these tend to be largely political I noticed, but there are also other types of books being read with celebrity book clubs.

I also clicked on MeLCAT (their catalog) because that's what most of us will use most of the time. We are given a search field, and it's a good one. I'm behind on the whole Inspector Rebus detective series (Ian Rankin) and wondered if any are available in audio. (Mostly, I'd love to hear the Scottish language and accents that I always imagine in Rankin's books, but don't want to pay for it just in case it's incomprehensible.) So, I put “Ian Rankin” in the search field, clicked “Format” over to the left side and checked “Audio,” and up popped 99 possibilities. Truly, I'm dazzled. Of course, there are even more Rankin choices of regular books.

MeLCAT doesn't leave us hanging either wondering about availability. It indicates which of the 99 audio possibilities is currently available. I picked one which is at the Farmington Hills Library, plugged in my name and library card number (be sure to get one of those if you don't have a card yet), and just like that, my request is being processed, and I had the convenience of doing this from home at night.

Just to be clear, this won't be the same as a service like Audible. On Audible it's thirteen dollars downloaded to an app on your phone and through MeLCAT, it's free and arrives on CD.

I'm in no hurry to read (or hear) a book I've skipped for quite a while, so the thirteen buck savings sounds good to me, and I'll listen in the car or on Bose at home. I know that my friendly librarian will call me when it's in.

What else can we find on MeL? Pricey academic journals are available on many topics and can save you a trip to a university library. I put into the search engine under Academic Journals "acupuncture for joint pain" and several sources popped up. Whether you want to write a will or fix your car, MeLCAT can get you started.

When Mary Chasseur recently told me what life is like at her new home library in Florida, the one thing she emphasized was, "We don't know how good we have it with MeL."

Don't miss out on one of the finest features of public libraries in Michigan. Our librarians know their way around the system and are happy to help.

See you at the Library!

**Upcoming Events:** Summer Reading is what's happening. Follow our schedule of events on FB and on our website Calendar.