

# Access Technology

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## MeL Catalog and Resource Sharing System

by Louise Bugg, MeL Catalog Project, Michigan Library Consortium

Following is an overview of the MeL Catalog and Resource Sharing System, which we will begin to implement as soon as we have a signed contract with the software vendor. The system will add these components to the Michigan eLibrary:

- A statewide online union catalog, with the combined holdings of all participating Michigan libraries.
- A statewide gateway to library information, with a single search interface for patrons to access all MeL databases, the MeL Internet Collection, digitized collections and the statewide online catalog.
- A resource sharing system, for Michigan library patrons in good standing to place online requests for items without intervention from library staff.

Participating libraries will be expected to subscribe to, and fund their own participation in, a statewide courier service for delivery of the requested materials between the borrowing and lending libraries. Patrons will pick up the materials at their home libraries.

### MeL Gateway to Library Information

All Michigan libraries and residents will be able to access the MeL Gateway on the Internet using a Web browser. The gateway will have separate views, with a different look and content, for adults and kids. Through the MeL Gateway, you will be able to do searching simultaneously across all types of statewide databases to find articles, Web sites, images and books owned by Michigan's libraries.

### Statewide Online Union Catalog

The statewide online union catalog will be a centralized catalog with up-to-date holdings from all participating libraries. Holdings for the same title will be merged, so you can display a list of all libraries owning a title. "Loanability" information will also be included, so you will know which items can be requested.

The first step in creating the MeL Catalog will be to migrate the InMICH database with the holdings of the 28 libraries participating in the InMICH pilot. For information about InMICH, go to <http://inmich.lib.msu.edu>. There are about 4.3 million titles in the InMICH database, with over 8.5 million items listed.

Then, groups of libraries will be added every 45 to 60 days. If all Michigan's libraries participate, the MeL Catalog could grow to more than 12 million unique titles with more than 48 million items, including books, CDs, videos, DVDs and other library materials.

### Resource Sharing System

Patrons in good standing will be able to place online requests for available items they find in the MeL Catalog. To make requests, they will log on using their library cards from participating libraries. The requests will be forwarded to potential lending libraries without staff intervention.

*continued on page 2*



## St. Patrick's Day Fun Facts

### Did you know...

- *That green is associated with St. Patrick's Day because it's the color of spring? Green is also the national color of Ireland.*
- *That the shamrock is a traditional symbol because Saint Patrick used the three-leafed shamrock to represent how the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit could exist as separate elements in the same entity?*
- *That the first St. Patrick's Day in America was celebrated in Boston in 1737?*
- *Saint Patrick was born in England, not Ireland?*
- *"Erin go bragh" translates to "Ireland forever"?*
- *Fifteen million cards are exchanged on St. Patrick's day, and 10 percent of all St. Patrick's Day cards are sold in New York?*

Sources: <http://www.care2.com> and  
<http://www.holiday-central.net>

*continued from page 1*

Behind the scenes, the resource sharing software will verify their status as "in good standing" by checking their patron records from their home libraries' circulation systems. The software will determine if the books being requested are available and decide which library's turn it is to supply the books. This will all be done without staff intervention, using "load leveling" capabilities.

Patrons will be notified, by e-mail if possible, when the books arrive at their home libraries and are available for them to check out.

#### Future Enhancements

Article requesting through the MeL Gateway and Catalog is scheduled to be available in 2005. This new module being developed by Innovative Interfaces will include copyright tracking. Patron requests that cannot be filled by MeL libraries will be referred to their home libraries for follow-up.

#### Coming in the Next Issue

Coming in the next issue of *Access* will be an article about how libraries can participate in the MeL Catalog and Resource Sharing System. For additional information about the project and about the statewide courier service, please visit [www.michiganelibrary.org](http://www.michiganelibrary.org).

## MeL Internet Collection Becomes a Database

*by Becky Cawley and Brian Breneman*

The MeL Internet Collection became a database in late December 2003, a conversion that has been a long-term goal of many of those involved with MeL. What was MeL before? Why change it? What difference does it make? What can a user do now that he couldn't do before?

#### Why change? Better searching

The "old" MeL was a collection of html pages — a great Web collection for browsing, but one where search results were spotty and where searches often missed resources that should have been found or retrieved less relevant hits. Users can still browse the MeL subjects, but they can also do simple and more advanced searches. For some searches, relevant information will come from several different MeL subject areas. For example, a search for "animals" finds resources in the Reference, Children and Young Adult, Science and Health sections. MeL searches work by looking for keywords in titles, topics, annotations and special subject fields.

MeL selectors are gradually adding special subjects to the records for MeL's sites. These include geographic locations, language, target audience and type of resource, such as map, test, newspaper, etc. Once these subjects are added, searching will get even better. For example, search for "Antarctica maps" or try "timeline" for a fun look at the variety of topics with this kind of historical overview.

## Why change? Better behind the scenes operations will make MeL better “up front.”

The new MeL is backed by a powerful administrative interface used to build and update the database. Selectors no longer need to know html in order to add resources. An automatic link checker and the ability to easily create cross-references to other areas of MeL enhance quality and functionality.

## How did we make the conversion?

The Library of Michigan contracted with the Breneman Group (<http://www.brenemangroup.com>) for this project. Starting in fall of 2002, project leader Brian Breneman had several meetings with MeL selectors and Library of Michigan staff to define database functions and establish project requirements. Selectors worked many hours to prepare data and to edit results of the actual data conversion, which was done by Breneman Group staff. One extremely useful tool for this group process was an online “bug tracker,” where selectors and project participants could post questions, pose problems and keep track of answers/resolutions. This tool was essential for a process that involved so many participants.

## What is the technical description of the MeL Internet database?

The MeL Internet application is built around an innovative relational database structure that enables browsing and searching within its hierarchical structure. Each topic and resource in MeL is represented only once in the database, but may appear at many points in the MeL directory. A custom-built link-checking tool, integrated with the MeL database and the administrative environment, automatically removes bad links from circulation and gives the MeL selectors an easy method of identifying and fixing problems within their topic areas. This tool contributes greatly to the usability and accuracy of the MeL index.

MeL was developed with tools that are open, platform-independent and free of licensing costs. The specific technologies we used to develop MeL are:

### Database Server

MySQL

Web site: <http://www.mysql.com>

### Application Server

Jboss J2EE Server and the Tomcat servlet engine

Web site: <http://www.jboss.org>

### Programming language

Java 2 Enterprise Edition

Web site: <http://java.sun.com>

### Operating System

Redhat Linux

Web site: <http://www.redhat.com>

### Issue Tracking Software

Mantis

Web site: <http://mantisbt.sourceforge.net>

The MeL search engine is custom java code written on top of the MySQL full-text engine and the MeL database structure. By combining an excellent full-text engine with custom code that is fully aware of the MeL hierarchy and metadata, we are able to create a search product that is fast and produces results that are very useful to the end-user.

We're not done yet...See future issues of Access for information about more MeL enhancements, including pathfinders, a spell checker, and MeL Internet as one target resource in searches of the larger MeL virtual library.

## Library of Michigan Foundation Elects Trustees, Officer

by Judith Moore, Executive Director, Library of Michigan Foundation

At its recent annual meeting, the Library of Michigan Foundation elected officers and trustees and re-elected Albert F. Zehnder, CEO of Zehnder's in Frankenmuth, as its president.

“I am so pleased to again have Al at the helm of the foundation,” said State Librarian Christie Pearson Brandau. “The work of the foundation is so critical to the current and long-term success and viability of the Library of Michigan. I am confident we have another creative and innovative group of people on board to ensure that our programs and initiatives keep moving forward with great momentum.”

In addition to Zehnder, other officers elected include J. Lawrence Lipton, vice president-investments, Smith Barney, Southfield, as foundation vice president. Lipton replaces Carl English, president and CEO-Gas, Consumers Energy. David Tate, director of the Van Buren District Library, was elected as foundation treasurer.

The following new trustees were elected to commence three-year terms:

- Richard Butler, attorney at law, Grand Rapids
- Anne Harcus, senior editor/account executive, Stony Point Communications, East Lansing
- Kenneth Glickman, senior vice president, Harvey Hohausser and Associates, East Lansing
- Katherine Willis, president, Cyberstate.org, Ann Arbor
- Robert T. Wilson, attorney at law, Butzel Long Law Firm, Bloomfield Hills

The following trustees were re-elected to commence their second three-year terms:

- Glen Bachelder, East Lansing



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- Mark Hoffman, deputy director, Department of History, Arts and Libraries, Lansing
- David Spencer, president and CEO, Michigan Virtual University, Troy

Other trustees currently serving their terms are:

- Elaine Didier, board chair of the Library of Michigan; dean, Oakland University Library, Rochester
- Mary McCormack, Petoskey
- Thomas J. Moore, dean of Libraries, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant
- Tiffany L. Patzer, Brown Associates, Rochester Hills
- Frances H. Pletz, Charlevoix
- Tim Swope, Swope and Associates, Albion

State Librarian Christie Pearson Brandau serves the board as a no-term trustee.

Brandau said the Library of Michigan Foundation board concluded the meeting by expressing appreciation to departing trustees Gail Powers-Schaub, director of information and technology, Council of Michigan Foundations, and Carl English for their years of outstanding service and commitment.

The Library of Michigan Foundation secures funds for the Library of Michigan to strengthen and support the relevancy, availability and accessibility of the Michigan libraries' resources and services for all Michigan residents.

## Save This Date for a Sparkling Celebration!



*Thursday, May 13, 2004*

Please join the Michigan Chapter of the Special Libraries Association (SLA) in celebrating its diamond 75th anniversary with a gala reception and dinner in Dearborn.

The festivities start with a free, afternoon reception at the Henry Ford (Dearborn) Centennial Library. Stephen Abram, an expert on technological trends in the information profession, president-elect of the Canadian Library Association, and 2003 recipient of SLA's John Cotton Dana Award, will be our guest speaker. We've asked Abram to read our fortune, focusing on the theme "Celebrating the Past, Creating the Future."

Dinner will be at the Dearborn Inn. Cynthia Hill, president of SLA, will join us as we continue our dia-

mond anniversary party. We will be showing off our "facets" — applauding the contributions of our chapter officers, past and present; praising our colleagues for their dedication, resourcefulness and teamwork; and reminding our bosses that the "instant" delivery of quality information requires a commitment to our professional development and membership in information associations.

It's time to shine! Please mark your calendars and join us for this special event, open to members and non-members.

For more information, please contact Kathy Irwin at [kmirwin@umdl.umich.edu](mailto:kmirwin@umdl.umich.edu) or (313) 593-5598 or Alice Pepper at [pepper@freepress.com](mailto:pepper@freepress.com) or (313) 222-5135.

## Digitization Projects: Notes from the MLC Annual Meeting

*by Tim Watters, Special Materials Cataloger, Library of Michigan*

Not having any experience with digitization projects, I attended the Michigan Library Consortium's annual meeting last October, which had the theme "Digitization and Libraries." I have always been fascinated by this topic but have not had any opportunities to actually work on such projects. My interest began 10 years ago, when I was in library school working as an intern at a public library information desk. A regular patron, frequently frustrated by our catalog, was convinced that once everything in the collection was digitized he would no longer experience difficulty finding what he wanted. I tried to explain that copyright may be a problem, but he was firmly convinced that the digitization of "everything" was imminent and soon he would be gliding through his research with ease. This article will briefly discuss some digitization issues that were new to me as I listened to the speakers at this meeting.

Although we now have a greater ability to store large amounts of information digitally, the life expectancy of that information is getting shorter due to constant format changes, new software versions and planned obsolescence. The information technology marketplace has no economic incentive to be concerned with preservation of "dead media." (See <http://www.deadmedia.org>.) There are currently competing standards for ways of preserving the integrity of information in this unstable environment. What is needed now are stable standards for the preservation of digital objects.

Digitization projects often include cultural organizations other than libraries. These may include archives, museums, historical societies, genealogical societies, K-12 schools, fine arts museums, arboretums and more. When working with these other cultural organizations, it is best to leave the library world behind and be aware of

the needs and expectations of these other types of organizations. For example, historical societies may worry about losing customers if their materials are digitized. Also, the library concept of cataloging may differ tremendously from how other organizations think about keeping track of their materials. They may simply see the description of materials as a form of data entry. Don't be surprised to hear suggestions that the digital objects be provided with metadata by prisoners or sent overseas electronically to be cataloged where labor is cheap.

As my patron alluded to 10 years ago, optical character recognition (OCR) scanning may be seen as a reason for not having any metadata at all. This assumes that keyword searching is productive and efficient. OCR is up to 98 percent accurate for keyword searching. On a related note, obtaining preservation-quality resolution on historical images may be very difficult. Also, it is significantly less expensive to unbind items for scanning than it is to try to keep them intact.

There are several successful digitization projects currently being implemented in Michigan, including "The Making of Modern Michigan, Michigan County Histories and Atlases Digitization Project" (<http://mmm.lib.msu.edu>) and the "Dorothea June Grossbart Historic Costume Collection" ([http://www.lib.wayne.edu/resources/digital\\_library](http://www.lib.wayne.edu/resources/digital_library)).

## From Furbies to FRBR

by Tim Watters, Special Materials Cataloger, Library of Michigan

One of the reasons Furby toys were so popular a few years ago is that they reacted more personally to the child than previous talking dolls. Traditional talking dolls would just recite a pre-recorded list of phrases when a string was pulled or button pushed. As we will see, there is an analogy between that toy and FRBR. FRBR (pronounced "ferber") is an acronym for Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records. As of this writing, a key report on FRBR has been translated into at least six different languages,<sup>1</sup> OCLC is conducting research on how to FRBRize library catalogs,<sup>2</sup> and the Library of Congress is working on a FRBR toolkit.<sup>3</sup> This article will introduce the most basic ideas for those who are completely unfamiliar with the topic.

A patron searching a FRBRized catalog "enter[s] into a dialogue with the catalogue,"<sup>4</sup> instead of browsing a potentially long list of search results. For example, on OCLC's prototype, Michael Crichton's *Andromeda Strain*, is searched by title. The result is a single record. From this point, the patron can then decide on a particular language, edition, format or any other variable. In theory, large-print books, DVDs and more would all branch out from this single record, which only reflects the abstract idea of *Andromeda Strain*. This single display actually represents 36 different traditional bibliographic records.

As we all know from general Internet searches, browsing can be extremely time-consuming, but we want our patrons to find what they need as efficiently as possible. FRBRizing eliminates the mesmerizing that happens when browsing. Instead, the searcher and the catalog work together to create a story line that ends in a resource. While current catalogs work more like an enhanced inventory, a FRBRized catalog is closer to a program that asks the patron questions in response to his or her queries. A patron can drill down from the most abstract concept of a work, to its realization as a movie, to its physical embodiment such as DVD or VHS, finally reaching a single tangible entity with a particular barcode, such as an autographed copy of the 1992 VHS release.

Aside from a few footnotes, I won't provide a reading list on FRBR here, but would suggest an old-fashioned Internet search that produces a results list for further information. As this topic is still very theoretical and subject to constant revision, the story is still being told.

1. International Federation of Library Association and Institutions. *Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records: Final Report*. Feb. 18, 2003 (<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s13/wgfrbr/finalreport.htm>)
2. OCLC. *FictionFinder: a FRBR-based prototype for fiction in WorldCat*. Viewed Nov. 26, 2003 (<http://www.oclc.org/research/projects/frbr/fictionfinder.htm>)
3. Network Development and MARC Standards Office, Library of Congress. *FRBR Display Tool* Oct. 14, 2003 (<http://www.loc.gov/marc/marc-functional-analysis/tool.html>)
4. Danskin, Alan and Ann Chapman. *Bibliographic Records in the Computer Age*. Library and Information Update. Sept. 2003. (<http://www.cilip.org.uk/update/issues/sept03/article3sept.html>)



# Library of Michigan Announces 2004 Michigan Notable Books

by Kim Laird and Kris Rzepczynski, Library of Michigan

The Library of Michigan is pleased to announce this year's selections for the 2004 Michigan Notable Books list, formerly known as Read Michigan. An annual selection of up to 20 books that best reflect Michigan's rich cultural heritage, the list features high-quality titles with wide public appeal that are either written by a Michigan resident or about a Michigan-related topic.

This year's list – selected by Kim Laird, Kate Nicholoff, Randy Riley, Kris Rzepczynski, Jim Schultz, and George Weeks – is particularly strong in history and memoirs. It covers a wide variety of interesting historical topics, such as baseball, the Detroit Zoo, Vernor's, Michigan's forests, early military history and the automotive industry. Of course, no list of notable Michigan books list would be complete without at least one title on the Great Lakes or shipwrecks, and this year we have several. Kathy-Jo Wargin's *The Edmund Fitzgerald: The Song of the Bell* is sure to be a winner for all age groups, while Jerry Dennis's wonderful *The Living Great Lakes* should appeal to the adventurer in all of us, and Benjamin Shelak's *Shipwrecks of Lake Michigan* will interest those who enjoy reading about or touring shipwrecks.

To help celebrate Michigan Week (May 15-21) this year, the Library of Michigan will sponsor a Michigan Author Day on Sunday, May 16, in which some of the 2004 Michigan Notable Books authors will be participating.

Libraries statewide will soon receive a 2004 Michigan Notable Books poster, which can be used to help create a Michigan-related display any time of year. Some libraries may even wish to host reading group discussions based on some of the themes found in the list.

## 2004 Michigan Notable Books

1. *Baseball Fever: Early Baseball in Michigan*, by Peter Morris. University of Michigan Press. Incorporating newspaper accounts, personal reminiscences and photographs from the era, this book explores the early beginnings and development of baseball in Michigan and how the game evolved into the national pastime.
2. *The Edmund Fitzgerald: The Song of the Bell*, by Kathy-Jo Wargin. Illustrated by Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen. Sleeping Bear Press. With vivid illustrations, this children's book tells the story of the famous 1975 Great Lakes maritime disaster and the recent recovery of the ship's bell.
3. *The Forests of Michigan*, by Donald I. Dickmann and Larry A. Leefers. University of Michigan Press. Complete with full color photographs and maps, this book details the natural history of forests in Michigan from the time of the receding glaciers, through the lumbering era and great fire disasters, to the 20th century renewal and future prospects.
4. *Going Back to Central: On the Road in Search of the Past in Michigan's Upper Peninsula*, by Lon L. Emerick. North Country Publishing. With the area's unique culture and heritage evident throughout the story, follow along with the author in his journey of discovery across the state's Upper Peninsula, with tales of copper mining and local folklore.
5. *A Hanging in Detroit: Stephen Gifford Simmons and the Last Execution Under Michigan Law*, by David G. Chardavoyne. Wayne State University Press. A thought-provoking study of the 1830 trial and execution of Stephen Simmons, its impact on early Detroit society and how the controversial event fits into the context of early Michigan history.
6. *Heart & Soul: The Story of Grand Rapids Neighborhoods*, by Linda Samuelson, Andrew Schrier, et al. William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. Historic photographs and postcards color this local history of the Furniture City, as told through its neighborhoods.
7. *The Living Great Lakes: Searching for the Heart of the Inland Seas*, by Jerry Dennis. Thomas Dunne Books. As a crewmember aboard a schooner, the author explores the region's natural history, shares personal anecdotes, and experiences the adventure and true wonder of the Great Lakes.
8. *Michigan's Early Military Forces: A Roster and History of Troops Activated Prior to the American Civil War*, by Le Roy Barnett and Roger Rosentreter. Wayne State University Press. Detailed histories of Michigan's pre-Civil War conflicts, and the state's role and contributions in them, complement the complete rosters of the soldiers who served.

9. *Off The Record*, by Tim Skubick. University of Michigan Press.  
As a member of the state capitol press corps, the author provides an insider's glimpse into the Michigan political scene, weaving colorful stories about the various personalities he has covered as a journalist, including Governors Milliken, Blanchard, Engler and Granholm.
10. *Recovering Ruth: A Biographer's Tale*, by Robert Root. University of Nebraska Press.  
The mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century diary of Ruth Douglass leads the author on a Michigan research adventure as he ultimately gains insight into his own life.
11. *Riding the Roller Coaster: A History of the Chrysler Corporation*, by Charles K. Hyde. Wayne State University Press.  
This book traces the Detroit automaker's roller-coaster journey of success, failure and recovery from its founding in 1925 to its merger in 1998.
12. *Saul and Patsy*, by Charles Baxter. Pantheon Books.  
A high school teacher and his wife raise a family in a fictional Michigan community and face the tragedy of a student's death and the small town's hostile reaction to it.
13. *Shipwrecks of Lake Michigan*, by Benjamin J. Shelak. Trails Books.  
Charts, maps and illustrations complement these stories of Lake Michigan maritime disasters, dating back to 1800.
14. *Still With Me: A Daughter's Journey of Love and Loss*, by Andrea King Collier. Simon & Schuster.  
The touching story of a woman's care for her mother during a battle with cancer, and her personal struggles and triumphs.
15. *Sub 4:00: Alan Webb and the Quest for the Fastest Mile*, by Chris Lear. Rodale.  
The story of the high school track phenom who joined the University of Michigan track team amidst enormous expectations, and his struggles to meet them.
16. *Sweets: A Collection of Soul Food Desserts and Memories*, by Patty Pinner. Ten Speed Press. A mixture of stories, memories and anecdotes from an African American family in Saginaw, and the delightful recipes that accompany them.
17. *The Vernor's Story: From Gnomes to Now*, by Lawrence L. Rouch. University of Michigan Press.  
A colorful history of the "deliciously different" Detroit institution, complete with glimpses into the evolving designs of the company logo, advertisements and the ginger ale bottles themselves.
18. *Voelker's Pond: A Robert Traver Legacy*, by Ed Wargin and James McCullough. Huron River Press.  
An illuminating photographic glimpse into the famous Michigan author's Upper Peninsula retreat, the natural beauty surrounding it and the legacy he leaves behind.
19. *Wheels for the World: Henry Ford, His Company, and a Century of Progress, 1903-2003*, by Douglas Brinkley. Viking.  
A sweeping history of Henry Ford and his company that explores the many achievements and struggles of the past one hundred years, including the Model T, the five-dollar day, the Willow Run bomber plant, anti-union activities and the Edsel.
20. *Wonders Among Us: Celebrating 75 Years of the Detroit Zoo*, by the Detroit Zoological Institute. Detroit Zoological Society.  
The history of the Detroit Zoo comes alive with this look into the animals, their exhibits and the men and women that have made the zoo both a great Michigan tourist attraction and an innovative scientific and educational center.



# Web Sitings

by Kyle Ripley, Library of Michigan, Reference Assistant

## Ergonomics and Technology

Ergonomic Assessment Program – Wilfrid Laurier University

<http://www.wlu.ca/~wwwblth/ErgonomicAssessments.pdf>

U.S. Dept. of Labor, OSHA

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/ergonomics/outreach.html#eTools>

ErgoNext – “dynamic information and tools to meet the workplace ergonomic challenge”

<http://www.ergonext.com>

My Daily Yoga – yoga at your desk to prevent injuries

<http://www.mydailyyoga.com/yogaindex.html>

ErgoWeb – links to a variety of news, resources and products on ergonomics

<http://www.ergoweb.com>

DMOZ Open Directory Project – links to ergonomic consultants

[http://dmoz.org/Health/Occupational\\_Health\\_and\\_Safety/Ergonomics/Consultants](http://dmoz.org/Health/Occupational_Health_and_Safety/Ergonomics/Consultants)

American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.

<http://www.aota.org/featured/area6/links/link02.asp>

## Is Vivisimo the Super-Fast Librarian?

by Tim Watters, Special Materials Cataloger, Library of Michigan

In an Associated Press article that was one of the most viewed at CNN.com on Jan. 5, the Vivisimo.com search engine is described by one of its founders as “a superfast librarian who can instantly arrange the titles on shelves in a way that makes sense.” The article, titled “Better search results than Google? Next-generation sites help narrow Internet searches,” was one of

the most-viewed that day not because the world is looking for a super fast librarian, but because Google was about to go public. Nevertheless, I tried out Vivisimo (having lost about \$100 when the Internet bubble burst, I didn't care much about the Google IPO hype), and found that it does work better than Google for searches including homonyms that have the same spelling.

For example, the field of computer science has co-opted one of my favorite words from the humanities, “reification.” If you search this term on Google, it can be time-consuming to pick out the sites that are not related to computer science. On Vivisimo, however, search results are placed into folders labeled by categories that separate the computer science sites from the humanities sites. This may seem like déjà vu for those of us who remember the Northern Light search engine from the mid-1990's, which had a similar function but in my experience was not comprehensive enough to bother using. Vivisimo seems to be more effective, probably because it draws its results from other search engines such as Lycos. Keep in mind, however, that it is limited by what those search engines can do.

Another example: type in the word “bear” to Vivisimo, and the resulting category folders include Teddy Bear, Polar Bear, Keep and Bear Arms, Bear Mountain, Bear Market and more. Open one of the folders and you will most likely find sites on that category alone and not have to wade through as many irrelevant results.

Most people assuming Google is the most comprehensive search engine may seem like a problem for Vivisimo. However, a search for the phrase “chaps from the Wolverine state” produced a result on Vivisimo but not on Google. Admittedly, it was a dead link, but after obtaining the URL, I plugged it into <http://www.archive.org/web/web.php> and found that that this phrase was the start of Davy Crockett's rather unflattering view of Michiganians as “the all-greediest, ugliest, an sourest characters on all Uncle Sam's twenty-six farms ... They are, in fact, half wolf, half man, and `tother half saw mill.”

So, while OCLC and others await a payout from the Google gamble, I would try Vivisimo and related “next generation” search engines for a while. (Especially intriguing, although experimental at this time, is <http://mooter.com>). After all, you are gambling with information searches, not real money, so the worst you can do is learn something.



## *Clinton-Macomb Public Library Installs First Amendment Wall*

Coinciding with Governor Jennifer Granholm's declaration of January as First Amendment Month, the Clinton-Macomb Public Library installed a First Amendment wall above the public information racks at the Main Library, adjacent to the library's four public meeting rooms. Emblazoned on the wall in bronze lettering, the First Amendment work of art was generously donated to the library by Judge Michael and Mrs. Carole Schwartz. As a retired jurist, Judge Schwartz felt that the gift fit both his life's work and the library's role in the provision of information.



"This gift will not only add to the beauty of the library, but as our customers peruse the racks of public information, it will also remind them of their inalienable right to access information," said Library Director Christine Lind Hage.

## *Sun Microsystems Awards Wayne State University Library System Academic Excellence Grant*

Sun Microsystems recently awarded the Wayne State Library System an Academic Excellence Grant for \$31,990, the first grant of its kind to ever be awarded to the library system. Sun awards the Academic Excellence Grant to eligible institutions that have developed creative projects addressing their investment priorities and creating partnerships for success.

The grant will allow the library system to purchase two electronic servers to further enhance digital library initiatives. The servers will be used for the Institute of Museum and Library Services-funded "Digital Dress" collection, which contains nearly 5,000 digital images of men's, women's and children's clothing and accessories representing 200 years of fashion. The servers may also be used to house other digital collections such as Virtual Motor City, a collection of over 15,000 digitized images from the *Detroit News*.

"The addition of this new equipment will improve performance and enhance access to our existing and future collections," said Jeff Trzeciak, director of Library Computing and Media Services.

If you have a news item you would like to contribute, please contact **Casey Kremers** at **517-373-5578** or email: **[ckremers@michigan.gov](mailto:ckremers@michigan.gov)**.



*2004 Access Team: Back row - Kyle Ripley, Tim Watters, Casey Kremers, Jo Budler, Linda Neeby, Andrew Wilson, front row - Becky Cawley and Karrie Waarala. Not pictured, Marnie Elden and Jennifer Houseman.*

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