Southeast Michigan Libraries Go the Extra MiLE

Libraries in Southeast Michigan have created a network that provides one-stop shopping for library patrons. The project, named Michigan Library Exchange (MILE), makes it easy to browse Michigan's largest library collection and request books online – anywhere, anytime. The new electronic service uses the Internet to connect more than 120 libraries and branches in southeast Michigan.

Hopefully, this will become a model for a statewide project to link all of Michigan's library collections.

Using specific telecommunications and information protocols that allow for communication between library systems MILE:

- Provides a virtual regional library holdings catalog on the web;
- Allows people to directly request books owned by other libraries, and;
- Provides delivery of requested books to people at their home library.

Up until now libraries have used a traditional interlibrary loan system, which is staff intensive and subject to delays. This new model allows the library patron to identify and request the books they want directly. Participating

libraries use software to allow their local automation systems to interact with each other by placing the request, alerting the owning library to send the book and, if the patron wishes, alerting the patron via email when the book has arrived.

"Improving service, increasing efficiency and lowering costs are major undertakings in any project. In this demonstration project we believe we can do all three simultaneously, said MILE Steering Committee Chair Louise Bugg.

OWLS Grant Administrator, Eileen Palmer said "Software is now available that builds on three technologies necessary to achieve our vision: Z39.50, the NISO ILL protocol and the Circulation Interface protocol. The plan is to use all of these standards to provide seamless interoperability among the databases of The Library Network Shared Catalog, the Detroit Area Library Network (DALNET), the Suburban Library Cooperative, and catalogs of members of the OWLS Region of Cooperation."

Many of the participating libraries now have MiLE available to their patrons. "We are extremely interested in how our library patrons like this service." said Bugg, "This project is funded by a federal Library Services and Technology Act grant administered by the Library of Michigan and we will be reporting to the state on the impact on library service."

"The Library of Michigan is enthusiastic about this project and will be interested in the outcomes," said State Librarian Christie Pearson Brandau. "We are constantly looking for ways to improve library services to all residents of Michigan and MiLE may be the next step in that journey."

Michigan Library Exchange
May, 2002

Libraries participating in this project at this time include:

Addison Twp. Public Library

Allen Park Public Library

Armada Public Library

Auburn Hills Public Library

Beaumont Hospital

Belleville Fred C. Fischer Library

Berkley Public Library

Birmingham Baldwin Public Library

Botsford Hospital

Brandon Twp. Public Library

Brighton District Library

Center Line Library

Chelsea District Library

Chesterfield Township Library

Clawson Blair Memorial Library

Clinton Macomb Main

Clinton Macomb North

Clinton Macomb South

Concordia University Zimmerman Library

Dearborn Heights Caroline Kennedy Library

Dearborn Heights John F. Kennedy Jr. Library

Detroit Institute of Arts

Detroit Medical Center Hospitals

Detroit Public Library

Dexter District Library

Eastern Michigan University, Bruce T. Halle Library

Eastpointe Memorial Library

Ecorse Public Library

Ferndale Public Library

Flat Rock Public Library

Franklin Public Library

Fraser Public Library

Garden City Public Library

Hamtramck Public Library

Harper Woods Public Library

Michigan Library Exchange
May, 2002

Hartland Cromaine District Library

Hazel Park Memorial Library

Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village

Highland Twp. Library

Huntington Woods Public Library

Inkster Public Library

Lawrence Technological University

Lenox Township Library

Lincoln Park Public Library

Livonia Alfred Noble Library

Livonia Carl Sandburg Library

Livonia Civic Center Library

Lois Wagner Memorial Library-Richmond

Lyon Township Public Library

MacDonald Public Library

Macomb Community College Center Campus

Macomb Community College South Campus

Macomb County Library

Madison Heights Branch Library

Madison Heights Public Library

Marygrove College

Melvindale Public Library

Milford Public Library

Mount Clemens

Northville District Library

Novi Public Library

Oak Park Public Library

Oakland Community College, Royal Oak Library

Oakland Community College, Auburn Hills Library

Oakland Community College Highland Lakes Library

Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Library

Oakland Community College Southfield Library

Oakland County Law Library

Oakland County Research Library

Oakland University Kresge Library

Orion Township Library

Oxford Public Library

Michigan Library Exchange
May, 2002

Plymouth District Library

Pontiac Public Library

Redford Township District Library

River Rouge Public Library

Riverview Public Library

Romeo District Library (Graubner)

Romeo Kezar Branch Library

Romulus Public Library

Roseville Public Library

Royal Oak Public Library

Royal Oak Township Library

Salem-South Lyon District Library

Shelby Township Library

Southgate Veterans Memorial Library

Springfield Township Library

St. Clair Shores Public Library

Sterling Heights Public Library

Suburban Library Cooperative

Taylor Community Library

The Library Network

Trenton Veterans Memorial Library

Troy Public Library

University of Detroit Mercy

University of Michigan Dearborn

Utica Public Library

Veterans Administration Hospital

Walled Lake Library

Walsh College

Warren Arthur Miller Branch

Warren Dorothy Busch Branch

Warren Edgar Guest Branch

Warren Maybelle Burnette Branch

Warren Walt Whitman Branch

Waterford Branch Library

Waterford Township Public Library

Wayne County Community College District LRC

Wayne County Community College Downriver LRC

Michigan Library Exchange
May, 2002

Wayne County Community College Downtown LRC

Wayne County Community College Eastern LRC

Wayne County Community College Northwest LRC

Wayne County Community College Western LRC

Wayne Public Library

Wayne State University, Law Library

Wayne State University, Purdy Library

Wayne State University, Science and Engineering Library

Wayne State University, Oakland Center

Wayne State University, Medical Library

Wayne State University, Undergraduate Library

Westland William P. Faust Public Library

White Lake Township Library

Wixom Public Library

Wyandotte Bacon Memorial District Library

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