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## Virtual Catalog Vendor Demonstration: May 1 and May 2

The current version of the Massachusetts Virtual Catalog is reaching the end of its life. In December 2011, the Virtual Catalog System Selection Committee and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners issued an RFP for a replacement system. Four vendors responded to the RFP and each of the four has been invited to demonstrate their software on May 1 and 2 at the Minuteman Library Network. Each of the Massachusetts networks will be sending up to three representatives to the demonstrations.

The vendors have been asked to conduct a 3 hour demonstration of their product with the focus on how it would work in Massachusetts. Library representatives will be asked to provide their opinion on each of the products. In addition, the Virtual Catalog Selection committee will be grading each product.

Once the best product is selected, networks should begin migrating to the new software in the fall 2012. This process could take up to 24 months and there will be a transition period where some networks will be on the existing software and some will be on the new software. More information will be distributed to SAILS members as it is made available.

## SAILS Adds 50 Always Available eBooks

Beginning on April 23, the SAILS Overdrive collection of downloadable eBooks has been enhanced with 50 Always Available eBooks. The titles are part of the Duke Classic Titles collection and include The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, L. Frank Baum stories (including The Wonderful Wizard of Oz), The Awakening by Kate Chopin, John Carter tales (Burroughs), some Westerns, Agatha Christie stories, Alice in Wonderland, and several others that make this a very interesting, eclectic collection.

These titles can be checked out to multiple patrons at the same time and there is no limit to the usage. Most but not all are Kindle compatible. SAILS obtained this new collection as part of a promotion conducted by Overdrive during the month of March. This is the first time the network has been able to provide patrons with an Always Available Ebook collection. We encourage you to take a look and can view the collection by clicking on this link:

<http://sails.lib.overdrive.com/en/BANGSearch.dll?>

## New Discussion Board on the Wiki

One of the biggest questions we've had about the wiki has been if we could add a discussion board to it. Although Wikispaces has a discussion area built into the software, it has been less than ideal for our needs. With the wiki on its feet now, we have been looking at creating and integrating our own discussion board onto the wiki.

Now, the Sailsnet Forum is live! We have made a site hosted by Lefora.com. It is a free software that is quick and easy to setup. It has also gotten great reviews online, if anyone is looking to setup their own web-hosted discussion boards. We chose this site for its simplicity in design and function. It should be very easy and fun to use.

It can be accessed on its own by visiting <http://sailsnet.lefora.com/> or by going to the SAILS Forum page on the wiki. Since it comes from a separate site and is private, like the wiki, it needs its own separate log-in to access it. To create a new id, go to <http://sailsnet.lefora.com/>. What I would recommend is to use the same log-in you have for the wiki, so you don't have yet another log-in to remember.

Just a helpful hint: the link next to the log-in button seems like you need to click it to create a new id, but you can actually just fill in the email and password fields, then click the Login button to get your account started. From there your account just needs to be approved and you're good to go!

Be sure to email [eservices@sailsinc.org](mailto:eservices@sailsinc.org) if you have any questions about the forum.

~ Ben

## Tip for Quickly and Accurately Updating Patron Records

In the next few months we will begin updating patron records in preparation for the implementation of SMS notices and automated phone calls. One thing everyone can try to do when updating patron records is to take advantage of copying and pasting. You can do this for information from different fields in a patron's record as well as from forms submitted by the patrons. This can save staff a lot of time typing and minimize data entry errors.

The quickest way to copy and paste is by using the keyboard. If you aren't familiar with keyboard shortcuts, highlight the text you want, then press ctrl and c, to copy. Place your cursor where you want the text to go and press ctrl and v, to paste. You can also go to this [http://www.deadzoom.com/instructions/copy\\_paste\\_using\\_keyboard.htm](http://www.deadzoom.com/instructions/copy_paste_using_keyboard.htm) for a more lengthy explanation and a tutorial.

## Please help out PEW and see what people across the country are doing with libraries and technology.

Participate now in public library ebook research.

The ALA, IMLS, COSLA and other library leaders are advisors on a [national research effort](#) studying the changing role of public libraries in the digital age, as well as the experiences and expectations of public library users. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has funded the [Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project](#) to conduct surveys and provide analysis related to reading and e-reading; the changing world of public library services and the choices public libraries must make; and a typology of who does – and does not – use public libraries. As many of you know, Pew is a national leader in this kind of research, and their reputation and reach is high and wide – and the Project is interested in learning about the work and opinions of public librarians. We believe this effort will provide the kind of data-based information public libraries are demanding to proactively meet changing community needs and advocate for the future.



And, like all research efforts, it can't happen without you. The first major report in this series was just released and examined the “rise of e-reading” and how people find and consume long-form digital content. That report is available online at [libraries.pewinternet.org](http://libraries.pewinternet.org).

The next report in this research series will look specifically at people's experiences in public libraries, especially their use of e-books and other digital services. To inform this research, Pew is supplementing its usual nationally representative phone surveys with two online surveys to draw out the deeper, richer stories behind the data:

1. The first survey is targeted at librarians and other people who work at public libraries that lend e-books. We'd like your input; please take the survey!! It is available here: <http://libraries.pewinternet.org/participate/survey/e-book-lenders> and takes about 15 minutes. To log in, please use your preferred email address as your username; the password is PEWLIBS.

2. The second survey is for patrons who check out e-books from their local public library. It is available here: <http://libraries.pewinternet.org/participate/survey/e-book-borrowers>. It also takes about 15 minutes. This survey is not password protected (SAILS has put this up on our public website).

Pew has created a brief message (available below) that you can share via your website, e-newsletters, social media and other dissemination methods, as well as a flyer and code that can be used to embed the survey on your library's website. To get the Web code and/or flyer, please contact Kathryn Zickuhr at [kzickuhr@pewinternet.org](mailto:kzickuhr@pewinternet.org).

“The surveys will be live April 16 through May 18, and the next report will be available this summer. Lee Rainie, director of the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project, will provide an update on the Pew library research on Sunday, June 24, at the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim. Thank you in advance for your participation in and support of this effort! - Larra Clark, ALA

## Impressive promotions for MA Libraries!

The new Massachusetts library video debuted at MLA/MSLA Legislative Day at the State House on April 11th. Take a look and see how our stats stack up against Boston's pro sports teams. You can watch it on the MBLC's new Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/mblcma>. Friend them and let them know what you think or watch it on YouTube:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=pcCFf\\_pYR-w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=pcCFf_pYR-w)

On either, please allow it to buffer a bit before watching. The video was inspired by the thousands of Snapshot Day photos uploaded during the Snapshot Day 2011. To see the 2012 Snapshot Day photos, go to:

<http://www.masslibsystem.org/snapmass/>



## SAILS Banner Available

SAILS banners are available for summer programs! They can be booked for a single day, weekend or an entire month.

The banner set includes the SAILS Banner, a display table, and two holders for promotional material.

They are a great addition to any program.

Email [support@sailsinc.org](mailto:support@sailsinc.org) to book the SAILS banner.



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	March '12	Feb '11	Total FY'12
Total Intranetwork Loans	<b>64,867</b>	66,743	<b>520,053</b>
Total Items Circulated	<b>405,755</b>	426,907	<b>3,404,618</b>
Gutenberg	<b>383</b>	1219	<b>3,076</b>
OverDrive Circulation	<b>8,831</b>	3,932	<b>60,531</b>
TumbleBooks	<b>28,612</b>	19,474	<b>127,125</b>
All Formats Circulated	<b>414,969</b>	<b>451,532</b>	<b>3,595,350</b>
VirtCat Items Borrowed	<b>1,202</b>	1,464	<b>9,509</b>
VirtCat Items Loaned	<b>601</b>	642	<b>5,329</b>
Cataloging Requests	<b>4,077</b>	4,169	<b>62,847</b>
MARC Records Added	<b>4,683</b>	8,296	<b>64,512</b>
Patrons Added	<b>2,746</b>	3,001	<b>33,496</b>
Patron placed holds	<b>53,153</b>	53,949	<b>438,723</b>
Total MARC	<b>1,134,616</b>	1,108,157	
Total Holdings	<b>3,744,775</b>	3,697,119	
Total Patron	<b>468,052</b>	460,256	
Total Uptime	<b>99.99</b>	99.98	

**Upcoming Events**[View the full event calendar](#)

- **5/2—Cataloging Roundtable**  
10 AM—10:30 AM, Virtual
- **5/16—Mambership Meeting**  
10 AM—12 PM, SAILS