This tutorial will introduce you to Mirlyn, the University of Michigan’s Online library catalog.

We will discuss how to access Mirlyn from the Law Library’s homepage and how Mirlyn’s search and browse screens are organized. You will see a demonstration of how to do a basic search and I’ll explain how to read the search results. Additionally, we will introduce you to the “My Account” tool available through Mirlyn.

Mirlyn searches the collections of the University of Michigan Libraries with the exception of the Law Library Collection and the Business School Kresge Library Collection which have their own separate catalogs.

To access Mirlyn from the Law Library’s Homepage click the link to Mirlyn in the “Other Catalogs” box.

This link will take you to the Mirlyn basic search page. In the upper-right hand corner, there is a yellow Login link where you can login using your U of M username and password. Although it is not necessary to login to search the catalog, doing so will allow you to access the hold function, to request that a book be held at a certain library, or brought to that library from a different location. Logging in will also allow you to save search results.
and create lists of books.

Mirlyn’s default basic search type is a keyword search which they call “Words anywhere.” Like all basic keyword searching, this will produce broad results. Keyword searching is the best strategy when you are not quite sure what you are looking for. You can select alternative basic search methods from the drop-down menu.

You can select alternative

basic search methods from the drop-down menu. The drop-down menu contains both “search” and “browse” options. The search options will provide you with materials that have your search term in any part of the record searched; examples are “words anywhere” or “Author words.” The browse options will provide you with an alphabetic or numeric listing of materials with your search term in the location you searched for; examples are “Title begins with” or “Subject begins with.”

In addition to the basic search, Mirlyn also offers an advanced search option.

The advanced search is useful when you have
more information about the book or topic you are looking for. Advanced searches are designed to yield more specific results.

Depending on the search type you select, there are two types of results lists. The Basic Search and Advanced Search will each list the results in the same way; this is the first type of results list, which appears when you use a search, rather than a browse, method.

The default list is sorted alphabetically by title, but you can select a different sorting method by clicking one of the alternative sort methods:

The results will list the format of the material, the Author, the title, the Year and the location. For more information on a particular record, you can click on the title of that record.
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This will display the full record. From this page you can find out whether the material is checked out or available by clicking “What Libraries Have.” The second results list appears when you use a browse method.

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It will show you the number of records that have the term you searched for in the field you selected (for example, title begins with or subject begins with). It will also show keywords that are alphabetically near the keyword you entered, and the number of records they produced.

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As was noted before, if you are logged into Mirlyn you have access to the library’s “get this” service, the libraries’ request an item and the hold service. The “Get this” service allows you to put a hold on an item that is currently checked out so it cannot be renewed; this service also allows you to have an item delivered to the library of your choice, or if the item is located in Hatcher Graduate Library or Shapiro Undergraduate library it can be brought from that library’s collection to the circulation desk for you to pick it up.

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To access the “Get This Service” click on the title of the item you want from the search results list. When the information for that title appears click on the link to “What libraries have.”

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If you are logged in then the next screen will provide a “get this” link option. Simply click the “get this” link.

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and select which library you would like the item delivered to from the drop down menu and put in the date the item is no longer needed. If you are logged in you can also manage your items by clicking “My Account.”
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Here you can view any items you have checked out, any hold requests you have made and any information about fees you might owe.

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Additionally, using the “My Account” options you can renew items you have checked out that have not been requested by another user.

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My Account
- View books you have checked out
- Renew books
- View your current hold requests
- View late fees