

## **MnLINK – Borrow books from any library in Minnesota!**

With **MnLINK**, you can request books, music, and videos from **any library in the state**. You'll be surprised what you can find, for free.

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We've all been disappointed at one time or another in trying to locate a difficult-to-come-by book or other material. Although the St. Paul Public Library system has a vast collection of materials, it simply is not large enough to contain all print materials in existence.

But, what if you could have access to library resources throughout the entire state of Minnesota? That obscure but delightful book your 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher read to the class? The quirky science fiction film from the 1950s that was withdrawn from your library's shelf for the book sale about 20 years ago? Perhaps the latest academic book on the history of the didgeridoo? An independent film?

Chances are, even if it's not available in your county's library system, the book you seek can be found in a library somewhere in Minnesota. Now, through **MnLINK**, a statewide system that grants patrons easy access to the catalogs of most libraries in Minnesota, you can find what you've been looking for. In addition to physical resources, access includes electronic resources available to Minnesotans, such as electronic journals, images, and ebooks. All you need is a valid library card.

### **Here's a quick guide to get you started:**

1. After searching your local library catalog, visit <https://mnlink.org/>
2. Type in your search keywords based on the subject or specific title and author information
3. Click on the title of the correct entry in the results list
4. Click on the dark blue button just below the title information that says *Request Item*
5. Type your library barcode; choose your library system from the *Pickup Location* drop down menu; click *Login* (no PIN/Password required)
6. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click *Request*
7. Wait to be notified by your local library that the book is waiting for you!

If you have any questions about how to access or use MnLINK, please contact Jennie (651-641-3544 or [JWalkerKnot@thinksmall.org](mailto:JWalkerKnot@thinksmall.org)) at the Debra S. Fish Library or your local librarian for additional help.

## 7 Cool MnLINK Tricks

But that's not all MnLINK can do. Here are a few more tips:

1. **View and cancel requests.**

When signed in (click *Sign In* on the upper right of the MnLINK page), click *My Requests* under *My Account*. This is a list of your current MnLINK requests. Click *Cancel* to cancel any request.

2. **Use advanced search.**

Sometimes a basic MnLINK search returns too many results. To narrow your search, click *Advanced Search* (on MnLINK's main page under the basic search bar). Here, you can search for a specific author, title, publisher, ISBN, or other field. You can also specify a publishing date ("nothing older than 1995"), a format ("only DVDs"), a language ("nothing but English or Spanish"), and a reading level ("juvenile only"). Select your options, then click *Search*.

3. **Save items for later.**

You may want to save an item you find to request it later. Or maybe you've reached your limit (20 requests) and have to wait to request it. When you find an item you want to request later, just click *Save*. You can pull up your list of saved items by clicking *Saved List* under *My Account*.

You can also save a particular *search*. On any search results page, click *Save Search* in the upper-right of the screen. View them later by clicking *Saved Searches* under *My Account*.

4. **Change how search results are sorted.**

On any search results page, click *Sort Options* under *Results*. To choose what you want to sort by, click next to *Index*. Type in a number next to *Number of records to Sort*, and click the *Sort* button.

5. **Filter search results.**

If you get too many search results, you can filter out what you don't want. From the search results page, click *Filter Options* under *Results*. Now you can choose to filter by publishing date, format, language, or reading level.

6. **Get help.**

On any page, click *Help* under *My Account* to get instructions for using the page you're on. You can also browse the help pages to learn about other features of MnLINK.