



## Alberta-Wide Borrowing UPDATE February 2014

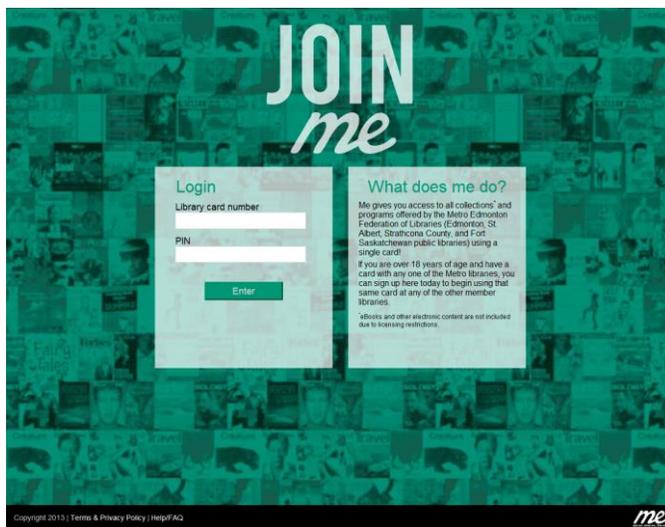
### What is Alberta-Wide Borrowing?

Alberta-Wide Borrowing (AWB) allows any resident in Alberta holding an eligible public library card to borrow on-site from any other network participant as if they are a local user (without using interlibrary loan mechanisms). Eligible library cardholders who visit participating libraries will have the same privileges and user experience as local cardholders, including access to resources, except where legally prohibited, e.g. by licensing agreements.

AWB is a *concept* created by provincial policy and supported by technological infrastructure funded by Alberta Municipal Affairs. It consists of a brand identity (see below for details), barcode compatibility, and ILS connectivity. It is **not** a central physical card or system.

### How will AWB be achieved?

AWB will be achieved through the **Me** service. **Me** is an initiative started by the Metro Edmonton Federation of Libraries. The **Me** website ([melibraries.ca](http://melibraries.ca)) allows patrons with an eligible library card to create an account at other participating libraries and borrow from those libraries when they visit in person, using their home library card.



**Me** is patron-driven (i.e, patrons register themselves with the libraries of their choice).

How will this work in my library?

NOTE: **Me** is currently only available for patrons in Edmonton, Strathcona County, St. Albert, Fort Saskatchewan and the Parkland Regional Library System area. It will be rolled out to all Public Library Network participants by May 2014.

Because **Me** is patron-driven, there should be minimal impact on front-line staff. If a **Me** patron comes to your library, you can expect them to have a different library card, but it will scan just like your own patrons' cards do.

If a patron needs assistance in registering for **Me** privileges, all staff need to do is help them navigate the melibraries.ca website. It is a very quick, intuitive process. You can have patrons up and running within minutes.

Please be aware of the following additional procedural requirements:

- **Me** users shall have borrowing privileges equivalent to local users except where prohibited by law or licensing agreements
- A library user who has acquired a library card at a non-network participant or has paid a non-resident fee for a library card is not eligible for **Me**
- **Me** users will not be charged an additional borrower's card fee by a host library
- Local lending rules apply. **Me** users must abide by host library lending rules
- Late fees and/or replacement costs will be applied to **Me** users as prescribed by host library policies and will be collectable by host libraries
- Borrowed materials can be returned at any participating public library in Alberta and these returns will be forwarded to the host library.

What else do I need to know about AWB and **Me**?

- AWB and **Me** is a service Alberta's Public Library Network. Only network participants as defined by the Public Library Network Policy can offer this service
- Libraries will issue their own cards to residents and may charge a fee when issuing a local card, as per current practice.

*Any other questions?*

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