What is CW MARS?
CW MARS is a diverse multi-type library consortium made up of over 150 member libraries primarily located in Central and Western Massachusetts.

CW MARS is an acronym that stands for Central and Western Massachusetts Resource Sharing.

What are the perks of membership?
As a library card holder, you get access to...

150+ Libraries
Your CW MARS card grants you borrowing privileges at all CW MARS libraries. Items can be checked out and returned to any CW MARS library. A list of libraries can be found at www.cwmars.org/memberlibraries.

8M+ Physical Items and 175K+ e-Titles
Over 8 million items in the network can be borrowed, most of which can be requested and picked up at your local library. Borrow items through the online catalog at catalog.cwmars.org.

Get 24/7 access to the network’s collection of over 175,000 digital titles, powered by OverDrive and Libby. Over 3,000 magazine titles are always available to borrow. Access the digital collection at cwmars.overdrive.com.

Automatic Renewals
Forget the hassle of manually renewing your items. Physical items eligible for renewal will be auto-renewed on their due date!

Commonwealth Catalog
If a CW MARS library does not have a title, expand your search across the state using the Commonwealth Catalog at www.cwmars.org/search/commonwealth-catalog.
Accessing the Catalog
You can find the catalog at catalog.cwmars.org. From here, you can search for titles, place holds, update your account, pay bills, and more.

Logging Into Your Account
You can log into your account from any page in the catalog.
1. Click My Account in the top right.
2. Enter your full library card number without any spaces. Then enter your password.
3. Click to Log in.

Navigating Your Account
From the My Account Summary page, you can view charges and pay any over $0.50 by clicking Charges, view your due dates or check out history by clicking Items Checked Out, see the status of your holds with Holds, and update your preferences with Preferences. You can also create lists of titles with My Lists.

Searching the Catalog
To search the catalog, enter your search term into the Search field. Optionally, select search Type, Format, and Library. Click Search.
Searches will default to a Keyword search across all of CW MARS. These can be adjusted if you are having trouble finding what you want.

Placing a Hold
Through the catalog, titles from across all of CW MARS can be requested for pickup at your local library. To do this, you will need to place a hold.
1. Search for the title you'd like to request.
2. Click Place Hold from the search results or after clicking on the title to see more details.
3. Confirm/choose the CW MARS library at which you'd like to pick up the item.
4. Adjust your notification preferences* if desired.
   You can choose to be notified by email and text message. Some libraries may also call.
5. Optionally, suspend / set advanced options.**
6. Click Submit to place the hold.

*These preferences can also be adjusted in My Account -> Preferences -> Notifications.
**Suspending a hold will allow you to place a hold for later. Your place in line will remain intact, and when you are ready for the hold, you can activate it.

Using Baskets
Baskets are like carts. Find your desired titles in the catalog, and click Add to basket. Then click the basket icon in the top right. From here, you can place all the titles on hold at once, print details, & more!

Saving Your Reading History
You have the option to save both your Checkout and Holds History. To protect your privacy, these options are disabled by default. If you'd like to enable them, navigate to My Account -> Preferences -> Search & History. From here, check to Keep history of check out items and/or Keep history of holds. Save your changes.

Note: These settings are not retroactive. Only items checked out or placed on hold after they are checked will be kept.
Important: If the settings are ever unchecked, your history will be lost!

You can view your history by going to Items Checked Out -> Check Out History and Holds -> Holds History, respectively.

You’ll also see which titles you have already checked out when searching the catalog.

Need Help?
If you have questions about CW MARS or how to navigate the catalog, help articles can be found at www.cwmars.org/help.

You can also always ask your local librarian, and they will be happy to help!