

Z Target Searching is Coming to Access Pennsylvania On Tuesday, November 15, 2022

As a pilot project between PaILS and POWER Library – designed to explore options for efficient and effective use of the SHAREit software – SPARK libraries have been set up as Z targets in SHAREit.

So, with Z target searching activated, a search in Access Pennsylvania will also go out and search all of the SPARK libraries' holdings in real time, without necessitating a full file load into the union catalog.

Functionally, the Access PA user will get the same results from their SHAREit search query, but the Z target results do require an extra click to see those results.

What is PaILS?

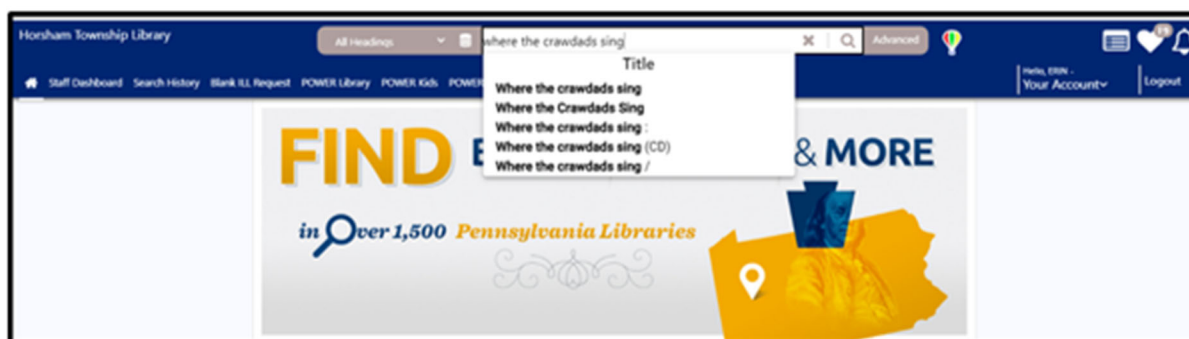
- PaILS is the Pennsylvania Integrated Library System (ILS), a non-profit corporation that oversees SPARK.
- SPARK is a consortium of more than 160 libraries across Pennsylvania running the Evergreen ILS.
- There are more than 160 SPARK libraries participating in Access Pennsylvania.

What is a Z target?

- Z39.50 is an international standard protocol for information retrieval that allows a user to search and retrieve information from another system (the Z target) without knowing the search syntax of that system.
- Z39.50 is often incorporated into integrated library systems (ILSs) and is widely used for interlibrary catalog search and loan.
- Many Access PA participants search the database using Z39.50 to set up Access PA as a Z target in their ILS.

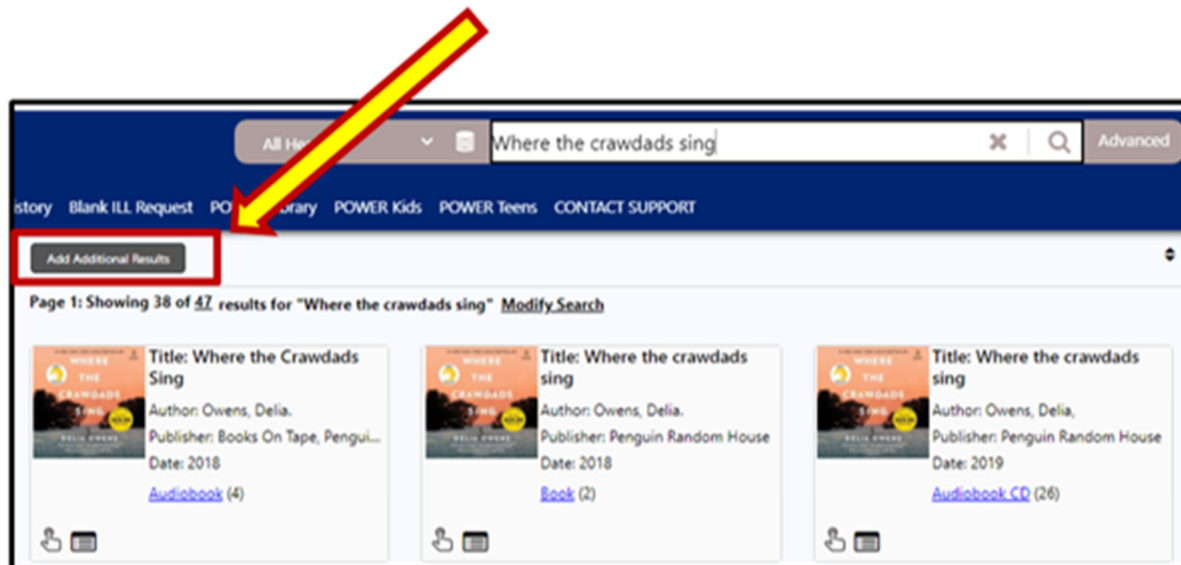
What is that going to look like for Access Pennsylvania participants? Read on!

You'll start with searching for the item you're seeking, as typical.



Your initial search results will appear, comprised of union catalog records.

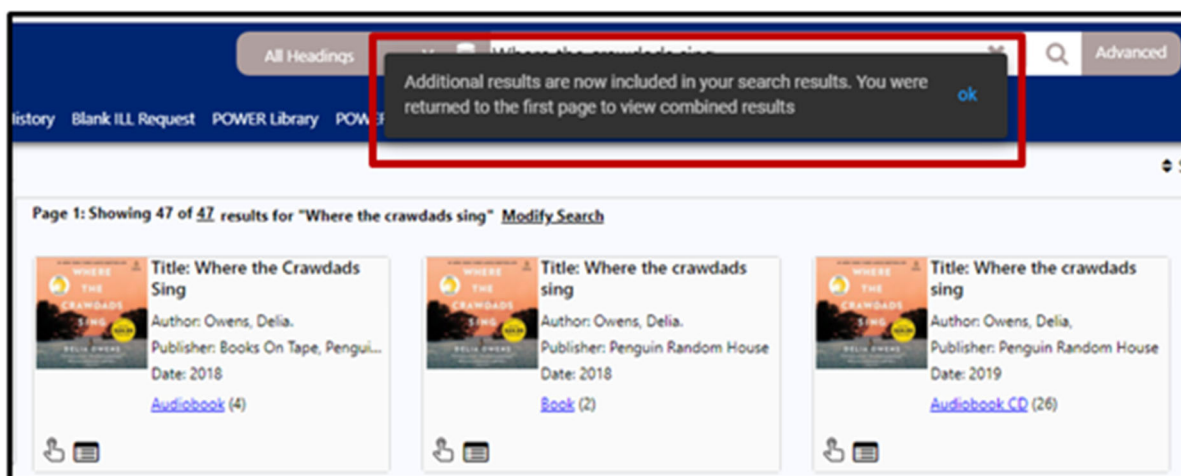
A button will then appear in the top left corner, inviting you to “Add Additional Results.” Clicking this button will add the results from the Z target(s).



Then you will get the confirmation message...

When you see this message, simply click “ok.” Or, you can ignore it – it will go away after a few seconds.

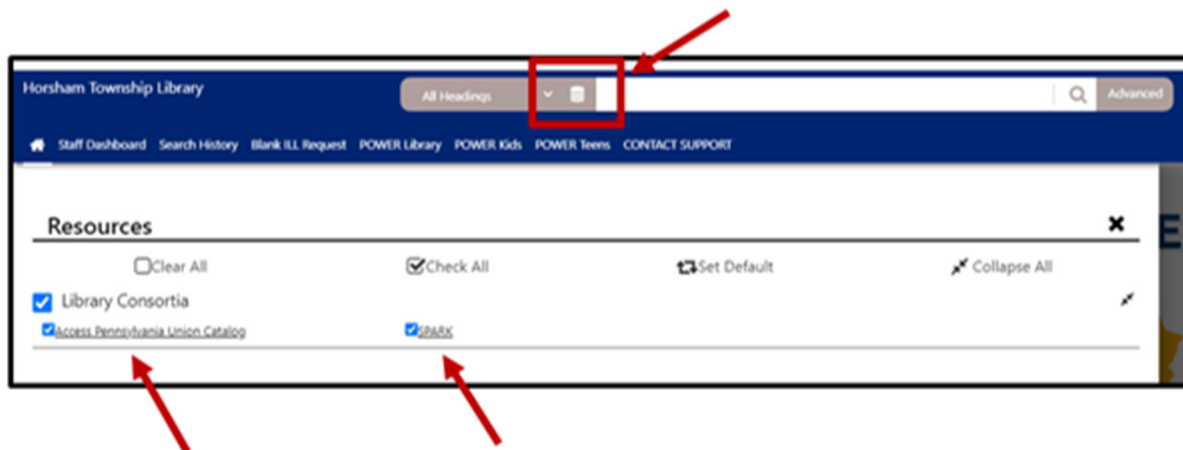
You are now free to continue with your request as you typically would.



Now here's the fun part!

Thanks to the Z target setup, library staff can now decide up front whether to search the union catalog, SPARK libraries only, or both.

Here's how it goes... ever notice the "stack of coins" next to the search bar?



When you click on it, the "Resources" filter pops up. Now that Access PA has more than one resource, we have choices. The default is both, but you can click and unclick according to the search you wish to do.

And that's it! If you see any issues or have any questions, be sure to let us know at support@hslc.org.