

The most powerful card in your pocket? It's your library card

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FULL TEXT

A library card can unlock a world of opportunities and experiences through access to a variety of resources, technology and programming. In Wisconsin, library cards are free to every resident and signing up for a card is a simple process.

Library card holders can check out an amazing selection of books, movies, audiobooks, magazines and music. A library card provides access to an array of online databases that will help you learn a new language, repair your car, decide which appliance to purchase, ace your research paper and explore your family tree.

Library staff work to ensure that the most current and exciting titles are available on the release date. Plus, library card holders can reserve a copy of popular titles in advance. Feeling nostalgic? Browse the stacks for your favorite classic movies, music and books. You will also find current television series, documentaries and foreign films. Not sure which book to read next? We can help with that. Every librarians' favorite challenge is to help you find your next page-turner.

Fox Cities libraries also have an extensive collection of newspapers, magazines and subscriptions to keep you up to date on current events, politics and trends. Libraries have access to back issues of newspapers and magazines that can be viewed on microfilm or an online database. One of the most convenient aspects of online resources is that library card holders can easily access the databases from home through the library's website.

Fox Cities libraries have caught on to the digital trend and your library card allows you entry to a digital collection of ebooks, audiobooks, language resources and hundreds of scholarly, informational databases. As more traditional formats become available online, libraries are subscribing to these services that allow patrons to stream or download content. Libraries in Wisconsin provide access to digital books and audiobooks through Wisconsin's Digital Library, powered by Overdrive. Hoopla is a service offered at several Fox Cities libraries and allows patrons to check out digital material including videos, music, magazines, comics, ebooks and audiobooks with no waiting.

Libraries in the Fox Cities are expanding the definition of items traditionally found in the library stacks. Stay connected with a Wi-Fi hotspot for checkout, the service is free with your library card. Try a new hobby by checking out a ukulele, jigsaw puzzle or knitting needles from the Neenah Public Library. Play and learn totes and craft to go kits are available in the youth department. The kits contain everything you will need for a creative and educational activity. The Menasha and Appleton Public Libraries allow card holders to check out a FAN Pass to experience local museums and events. For the gamer, the Appleton and Kaukauna Public Library check out video games. Visit Appleton Public Library to experience the digital creation lab and let your imagination run wild.

Fox Cities libraries are invested in connecting members of the community with a wealth of resources, program and

tools that enrich, inform and entertain. Stop by your local library today and sign up for your free library card.

A library card sign up event will be at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 12 at the Menasha Public Library. The event features crafts, activities and a library cake.

Meghan Odegard is an adult services librarian at the Neenah Public Library.

Illustration

Caption: Odegard

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