

The Growth of Audiobooks at Roseburg Library  
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Roseburg Public Library

Roseburg Public Library provides options for ear readers to get their audiobook fix, and patrons overwhelmingly are choosing to go digital.

Over the past year, patrons downloaded 17,000 audiobooks from the library's two platforms, CloudLibrary and Libby. That was a 17% increase over the previous year.

By contrast, patrons checked out 2,200 books on CD from the library during the same period, a 6% decrease from the previous year.

A big reason for the shift is the amount of digital content available. There are more than 35,000 titles between the library's two platforms compared with 2,500 books on CD in the library's physical collection.

Virtually every popular book is available as a digital audiobook. It's true that there often are extensive wait times for some titles, but patrons may place holds and listen to other books in the meantime.

The same is not true for books on CD. Just last week I was frustrated as I shopped for new, popular titles to add to the physical collection. In many cases, the book was not even available in CD format from our vendor, as was the case for Anne Tyler's latest, "Three Days in June," and "The Let Them Theory: A Life-Changing Tool That Millions of People Can't Stop Talking About" by Mel Robbins.

In other cases, such as with "We All Live Here" by Jojo Moyes, the catalog indicated it was published in CD format, but copies were not available at that time.

I ended up purchasing only seven books on CD.

I encourage ear readers to use both CloudLibrary and Libby for the best experience.

Libby has a much deeper catalog, including the full complement of long-running series. As a member of the Oregon Digital Library Consortium, we pay an annual fee for access. In addition, when at least five Roseburg Public Library patrons place a hold on a particular title, I usually purchase an individual license for that book. It then becomes available for Roseburg patrons first, then is shared with the rest of the consortium.

CloudLibrary is a great complement to Libby because, although there are fewer titles, the wait times often are significantly shorter. For example, as I'm writing, "Dream State" by Eric Puchner, the latest Oprah's Book Club pick, has a wait of several months on Libby but is available immediately on CloudLibrary.

We pay an annual membership fee for CloudLibrary and share materials among a handful of other libraries in Oregon. Without their willingness to share content, CloudLibrary would not be feasible for Roseburg.

Library staff are available to help patrons connect with digital materials on smartphones, tablets and laptops. I appreciate patrons making an appointment by email at [library@roseburgor.gov](mailto:library@roseburgor.gov) or phone at 541-492-7051; however, most of the time we are able to help patrons who walk in during library hours.

#### Next week's library events

Tuesday, March 25, 10 a.m. – Grab-and-go craft kits while supplies last

Tuesday, March 25, 3-5 p.m. – Maker Space Time

Wednesday, March 26, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Thursday, March 27, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Thursday, March 27, 4-5 p.m. – Spring-themed crafts for kids

Thursday, March 27, 6:30 p.m. – Silent Book Group