

Library Increases Digital Access
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Roseburg Public Library

Digital readers are about to get a treat with their library card.

Beginning Monday, May 12, patrons will be allowed to check out up to 10 items at a time on the Libby app, an increase of four items.

Roseburg Public Library has access to Libby as a member of the Oregon Digital Library Consortium (ODLC), a statewide network that pools resources to provide electronic books and audiobooks to libraries of all sizes.

As ODLIC chair for the past two years, I have been part of conversations about how the consortium can maximize patron satisfaction. The Executive Committee and Governing Board routinely discuss patrons' most popular request: to increase the number of holds, which currently is six items at a time.

The numbers just don't add up for ODLIC to make that adjustment. Currently, there are 70,308 titles and 133,822 copies in Libby. Patrons have 94,362 items checked out, and they have 182,509 holds. The average wait period for a hold to become available is 54 days.

Given that the system is upside down on holds, the ODLIC Governing Board decided to keep the current limit of six per patron.

However, the group approved increasing the number of checkouts to 10 because there is capacity and patrons will have more options while they wait for the hottest titles.

I consider the library's two digital apps, Libby and CloudLibrary, extensions of our physical collection. For the best experience, I recommend toggling between them and the library's catalog of physical materials at roseburg.biblionix.com.

I long ago became a hybrid reader, and it pays off when I want to read a new bestseller.

A great example is "Great Big Beautiful Life," Emily Henry's latest romance. Roseburg Public Library has a physical copy of the book; our lending partner, Mildred Whipple Library in Drain, has a large print copy; Libby has it in book and audiobook formats; and CloudLibrary has it in book and audiobook formats.

I kept my eye on all of the options and snagged the print copy from Roseburg. The next best option was CloudLibrary with a wait time for both formats of less than one month. Flexibility is key when using the library, and staff is here to help patrons navigate all of the options.

Keep in mind the library also provides access to digital magazines on Libby. More than 5,000 titles for all readers in a variety of languages are available. There are no checkout limits, and all titles are available immediately.

Digital checkouts account for about one-third of Roseburg Public Library's circulation, and I look forward to providing even more opportunities for patrons to connect with our online services.

Next week's library event

Thursday, May 15, 12 p.m. – Oregon's Black History: 450 Years in 45 Minutes
presented by the Oregon Black Pioneers