

Update on Digital Materials at Roseburg Library
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The News-Review

Roseburg Public Library patrons can't get enough of digital books, audiobooks and magazines.

We have circulated 106,000 physical and digital items since July 2024. Online materials have accounted for 34% of that total, a 4% increase over the previous year.

One of the major reasons for the positive change is digital magazines, which are available on the Libby/Library2Go/OverDrive (Libby) platform. We launched our subscription nearly a year ago, and over that time patrons have checked out 4,500 issues. The New Yorker is by far the most popular title.

We also have seen an increase in digital audiobook checkouts, a trend that is occurring nationwide. They have accounted for 55% of online circulation over the past year, a 4% increase over the previous year.

The library offers downloadable books and audiobooks on two platforms. We have Libby as a member of the Oregon Digital Library Consortium (ODLC), a large group of libraries of all sizes. We have CloudLibrary as a member of a small group of Oregon libraries.

Libby has a larger selection, including more backlist titles, but patrons may wait longer for their holds to be fulfilled. Roseburg pays an annual membership fee to ODL, which relies on a selection development team to curate the collection. I often purchase additional copies of a title when Roseburg patrons have at least four holds. Roseburg patrons then have priority access to that title. When local patrons no longer have holds on the title, it becomes available to patrons throughout ODL.

With CloudLibrary, the newest and hottest titles often are available sooner than on Libby, and I have more control over collection development. My approach is to ensure we have copies of titles with the highest number of holds in the consortium. Then I select items that have been well reviewed and not purchased by other member libraries. I also add buzzworthy titles that I do not intend to purchase in physical format.

Roseburg patrons have priority access to CloudLibrary items we purchase. When titles are not in use by local patrons, they are available to readers at other member libraries.

I recommend patrons use both platforms for the best experience. The only limitation is Kindle Paperwhite and black and white e-readers are not compatible with CloudLibrary.

The library renewed our digital magazine subscription for another year using funds from our operating budget as a City of Roseburg department.

We also will utilize operating funds, Friends of the Roseburg Public Library donations and grant funds from the Douglas County Library Foundation and C. Giles Hunt Charitable Trust to support CloudLibrary and Libby.

My goal is to spend about 40% of our funding on digital materials and the other 60% on physical materials. Digital books and audiobooks are far more expensive than their print alternatives, another reason we're grateful for our consortia partners.

This Week's Library Events

Monday, June 16-Saturday, June 21, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. - StoryWalk® at Stewart Park by YMCA

Tuesday, June 17 at 10 a.m. - Grab-and-go kids craft kits (while supplies last)

Tuesday, June 17 at 10:15 a.m. – Lap-Sit Storytime

Tuesday, June 17 from 1-2 p.m. – SRP kickoff party

Wednesday, June 18 at 10:30 a.m. at Stewart Park Pavilion – Storytime

Thursday, June 19 from 1-2:30 p.m. – Teen program: no-sew T-shirt tote bag

Thursday, June 19 at 6:30 p.m. – Community conversation for adults with disabilities (RSVP to 541-492-7051 required)

Friday, June 20 from 10:30-11:30 at Stewart Park Pavilion – Twirl the Rainbow: Hoop Fun for All with Hillia Hula