

BCPL Keeps Readers on Road to Knowledge

The weather has warmed up. You finished mowing. Now it is time to get to the tune-up on your truck or car. Or maybe it is brake lights or an automatic window that doesn't work? If you don't own a manual for your vehicle, where to turn for the information you need? Your public library, of course.

In fact, you can log onto the Bartholomew County Public Library internet website at www.barth.lib.in.us from your home computer. On the home page you will see BCPL's Online Databases. Point your mouse to Chilton Auto Repair. You will need to type in your library card number.

On the Chilton home page you will see the vehicle selector side bar. Use the drop down menu to select first the year of your vehicle, then the make and last the model. Then you will have a choice of the online information that Chilton's has. For instance for my 2002 Rav4, I could access Bulletins/Recalls, or Maintenance, or Repair. When I click on Maintenance I get a chart of the regular maintenance schedules. This can be printed out by scrolling down the screen and clicking on View Image.

If you do not have Adobe you will have a chance to download a free version. Follow the Adobe toolbars to print.

Under Repair, you will find a list of the problems Chilton covers. For my Rav4, I could check Chassis Electrical and find the only information Chilton offers is about air bags. Under a 1990 Ford Bronco, looking at the Chassis Electrical gets a much longer list of repairs. Take a look at Windshield Wipers and Washers. Here are close-up photos of the wiper parts as well as written directions to install new blades.

If you do not find what you need on the Chilton Auto Repair database, come into the main library. Ask any librarian at the Reference Desk to show you our collection of Mitchell Manuals. We have information from 1961 through 2002 for domestic vehicles and through 2004 for imported vehicles. Although the collection is incomplete for some years, there are diagrams and instructions for many makes and models. You will need to photocopy the pages you need as the Mitchell Manuals are reference books that do not leave the library.

Reference librarians have found another free internet car repair service: www.autozone.com. On the Autozone home page, click on Repair Info. Then you will have a choice of Vehicle Repair Manuals, Troubleshooting, Component Locations, Specifications, Product and How to info and Glossary. Repair manuals cover 1930 through 2008 but not all models in every year.

Troubleshooting helps you figure out what is wrong. Component Locations helps you dealer who sell the parts you need. Specifications gives you the needed information by part or system such as brakes and traction control settings.

Enjoy the warm weather and get those wheels rollin' again.

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