

## Top 10 Reasons to Get a Library Card

What's a library good for, anyway? For one thing, libraries do help make cities stronger. As our economy spirals downward, libraries make critical contributions with their services to job-seekers and small businesses, playing an enormous role in workforce development and a literate citizenry. Libraries, not the schools, serve the needs of the OTHER 83% of our citizens, the group that actually pays the taxes. It has been said that libraries are "free...parks with a brain, providing education brilliantly disguised as leisure..." That doesn't exactly make them a frill, does it?

Of course, libraries are not free. They cost money. Reference librarians are not volunteers. Dedicated staff work long hours, giving expert personal assistance. Book prices are rising. Computers come with a hefty price tag. However, your library could be the best bargain in town. Total library operating expenditures per capita in Bartholomew County in 2007 were \$40.04. Compare that to \$59.76 in Evansville, \$64.81 in Carmel, \$55.16 in Monroe County, or \$44.16 in Jackson County. A few other statistics to drink in with your morning coffee might include our per capita 9.5 visits and 12.2 items checked out in 2007.

Are you and your family visitors? Remember, this could be the best thing you are already paying for, and you need to be taking advantage of that investment. Think of it as a sort of club - with dues paid in full - every year. Hey, it's your money. Without a library card, that membership is kind of a waste, isn't it? The wonderful resources you've already paid for just get checked out to somebody else! Whoever said you actually had to own all the books you read?

### TOP 10 REASONS TO GET A LIBRARY CARD:

10. Downloadable audio books to your home computer via OverDrive and "Net Library. You can download audio books to your MP3 player or other portable media device.
9. Movies on DVD or videotape you can borrow for a week; borrow nonfiction programs 3 weeks
8. Books and music in CD format that you can enjoy for three weeks
7. Use of a personal computer for a total of 90 minutes daily
6. Large Print Book Collection from which you can borrow for three weeks
5. Library Elf – an easy sign-up email notification system, giving you a "head's up" on your requests now in, how soon an item is due, or when something will be overdue
4. Bestsellers you can reserve with your card number in person, over the phone, or on your computer
3. Books from all over the world we can get you via Interlibrary Loan if we don't have the one you want

2. Bookmobile service to outlying areas of the county, plus our beautiful branch in Hope

1. Books you can borrow for three weeks and renew once for another three weeks

If you had a library card years ago, you are probably still in the system. Call and see: 379-1255. If not, sign up for one in person...it will only take a few minutes. However, there are services available to everyone, with or without a card.

Do you have a reference question that needs answering? Do you need to look up something from *The Republic* that is now on microfilm? Do you want to scan and send an item?

Do you just need to take a computer class or two? There is no charge. We also offer varied and interesting adult programming in the Red Room.

Our Children's Services are excellent, and your child no longer needs to be old enough to write his or her own name to have their very own library card. Experts are now saying that a child should "read" 1,000 books before kindergarten! Come in, it's all waiting here. We'd love to meet you.

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