

Digital Offerings at Your Library

Happy New Year from your library! 2010 was another banner year for the Bartholomew County Public Library. You will hopefully remember that in 2009 we broke the one million items checked out mark. While that was great news, I have even better news for 2010. The residents of Bartholomew County checked out and downloaded more than 1.1 million items. This is a 7% increase over the record breaking 2009! We are so thrilled that you have continued to rely on us to provide you with your information resources.

Many of those resources were accessed without even stepping into the library building. Our free downloadable offerings continue to grow in popularity. From your home or office, you can access music, audiobooks, and eBooks, download them to your computer, and transfer them to an appropriate portable device.

Freegal, our downloadable music service, allows you to download up to 3 songs per week. You can choose from the hundreds of thousands of songs available in the Sony Music Catalog. These are DRM-free files, which mean they will work with any portable audio device including iPods and mp3 players. They can also be downloaded to both PCs and Macs.

Our Overdrive service also continues to grow in popularity. Within this catalog, library card holders have access to almost 1500 audiobook titles and over 1000 eBook titles. We continue to add to these collections and look for your input to tell us what titles/authors you would like to see.

We definitely are seeing an increase in the requests for eBook services. Many of you received and/or gave portable eBook readers to your friends and family over Christmas. Since then, we have received many calls and questions regarding the specifics of our offerings. Basically, our downloadable eBooks can be transferred to most e-readers, but not the Amazon Kindle (due to Amazon's restrictions of file formats).

However Nooks, Sony eReaders, Pandigital, and more are all compatible with Overdrive books. We have placed a step by step guide to downloading and transferring our eBooks to your device on our website. Just click on "Click for help with eBooks on Nook..." at www.barth.lib.in.us. We are also happy to answer questions at the Reference desk, by email (reference@barth.lib.in.us), or by phone (379-1266). If you have a smartphone you are not left out as the Overdrive Media Console app allows iOS and Android devices to wirelessly download audio and eBooks directly to your device.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention several new databases that we now offer to you. We replaced the Chilton's Auto Repair Database with the Auto Repair Center which allowed us to purchase the Small Engine Repair Center to access repair information for lawnmowers, motorcycles, and other small engines.

Mango Languages is a language learning database that provides interactive learning for over 30 languages and ESL for speakers of 15 native languages.

For all of you antique lovers, we now have an antiques reference database provided by p4a. This listing from over 140 national and regional auction houses enable you to get a better idea of what your treasures are worth.

Gale Virtual Reference Library brings a reliable, verified reference library to your home or office. This collection is perfect for students or those interested in learning more about certain subjects, especially history.

All of these resources and more are available from our website: www.barth.lib.in.us.

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