

Library Can Help Research Presidential Candidates

One of the best things about being an American is CHOICE—to work, to worship, to play, to have or not have a family, to vote, and to read whatever you wish. As we watch the campaign lumber toward the November election, we have the CHOICE to research and decide which candidate to support for the Presidency.

The Columbus Public Library provides opportunities for you to research the candidates through newspapers, magazines, books, and DVDs. If you check the Library catalogue, you will find books by most of the presidential candidates. You can check the catalogue in the Library or by accessing the Library website www.columbusne.us/library and clicking on catalogue search.

Just for fun, I looked in the catalogue to count the books by or about each candidate. The winner was Hillary Rodham Clinton with 8, followed by Donald Trump with 5, and Dr. Ben Carson with 4. Jeb Bush, Sen. Ted Cruz, and Sen. Marco Rubio each have one listed. I found no listings for the other candidates.

So why is there more information available on some candidates than others? Books, DVDs, movies, and other media in the Library are categorized into Collections in the departments of children, young adults, and adult. Department heads read reviews, pay attention to what is popular, and listen to patron requests. Most patron requests are filled. Sometimes the requests are for books too expensive to purchase or have limited appeal. All requests are subject to staff approval as well as budget limitations.

I was excited to find the DVD “The Presidents” narrated by Edward Hermann. The DVD examines the lives and legacies of the first 43 Presidents by a group of today’s journalists, scholars, and politicians and approved by The Society of American Historians. It was shown on the History Channel to critical acclaim. It is based on the book “To the Best of My Ability” by James M. McPherson.

The Library also subscribes to newspapers and periodicals offering news and opinions which may differ from our state and local print media. All you have to do is come to the Library, find a comfy chair, and read to your heart’s content. Some are also available on Zinio, a free service provided by the Library to card holders allowing access to magazines on your personal device. Go to the website and click on Zinio to set up your account. The staff is always willing to assist.

Back to the word CHOICE. Please choose to support the Library Cultural Arts Center project verbally and financially as we work to increase the Library’s impact on the citizens of Columbus and Platte County by connecting people and ideas.

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