

“Librarian’s Shelf” by Heather St. Clair

Small Engine and Auto Repair Reference Centers

Is your lawn mower broken? Do you need to fix your boat engine or ATV? Do you have anything with a small engine that needs repaired? If so you’re in luck! The Columbus Public Library has the “Small Engine Repair Reference Center.” It is a database providing Clymer repair manuals for ATVs, Generators, Motorcycles, outdoor power equipment, and more.

You can access the database, at home or in the library, from the Columbus Public Library website, www.columbuslibrary.info, under Electronic Resources, on the left hand side of the page. You will need your Columbus Public Library or Platte County Bookmobile card number in order to sign into the database for free.

Once you are in the database, it will display eight categories in which you can browse. While you can use the Advanced Search feature, it is much easier to browse this database. The categories are for All Terrain Vehicles, Generators & Other Small Engines, Marine/Boat Motors, Motorcycles, Outdoor Power Equipment, Personal Water Craft, Snow Machines/Snow Mobiles and Tractors.

Each of these categories is slightly different in set up. You can generally browse right away through the different makes and then models, except in the case of Generators & Other Small Engines and Outdoor Power Equipment, as they are divided by type first, then make and model. For example, under Motorcycles you can click on Kawasaki to browse the models; however, if need information on just a Kawasaki engine, in Generators & Other Small Engines, you need to select the type of engine, such as Large Air-Cooled Engines, and then you can browse by model.

This database doesn’t just focus on engines, but other aspects of the machine you might be working with. Under Marine/Boat Motors, is Powerboat Maintenance Overview & Information, which includes information on Fresh Water Systems, Hull Maintenance & Refinishing, Trailers & Towing, and more. Snow Machines/Snow Mobiles includes information on the skis, track drive and track and suspension. Hydraulics Information is found under Tractors and includes Systems Diagnosis.

The guides available can cover routine maintenance and tune-up as well as extensive repairs and many have photos and/or diagrams. In order to view the guides, as they are PDF documents, you will need Adobe Reader, which can be downloaded for free from www.adobe.com.

Our Auto Repair Reference Center is also available on our Electronic Resources page and also requires your card number. Select a year, make and model to access repair procedures, service bulletins and recalls, wiring diagrams, labor, specifications, and maintenance intervals.

If you need help or have any questions please feel free to stop in the library or call us at 564-7116 or email us at library@columbusne.us.