

Librarian's Shelf by Karen Connell

### Technology Assistance at your Library

Everyone knows that libraries have books you can borrow and hopefully you know that we also have audiobooks, magazines, and DVDs that you can borrow using your library card. In addition to physical items to check out, there are online resources you can access with your library card, including databases, ebooks, and downloadable audiobooks. You can access coloring pages to print from RBDigital Magazines, run a search to find business leads with AtoZdatabases, learn about other countries with AtoZ the World, and stream music with Freegal Music. But did you know you can borrow a staff person using our Book a Librarian at the Columbus Public Library?

Of course you can stop by the library anytime and we will help you send a fax, print from your device or our public access computers, scan a document to an email address or flash drive, find a book to read, use our wifi and more, but our Book a Librarian service provides uninterrupted time to learn how to do these and other things. We can help you learn how to use your smartphone, tablet, or laptop. We can show you how to type a document on our public access computers or make and print mailing labels. We can also use Novelist Plus (a reading recommendation resource) to help you find the next book, series, or author to enjoy.

Using the Book a Librarian service, you get a half hour with a staff person to answer your questions and help you access the various services the library provides. During recent sessions, I have helped people learn how to take pictures with their new camera and transfer them to their laptop, create folders on their laptop to organize photos and files, type and print Christmas letters, and use Google Maps in preparation for an upcoming trip.

Staff can assist you in learning how to access various library services on your electronic device as well. Installing and setting up the apps available for downloadable books, audiobooks, magazines, and music (Overdrive, Cloud Library, RBDigital Books & Magazines, and Freegal Music) can be a daunting task for new smartphone users so we will walk them through the process. Once the apps are set up, we can show you how to use them. Whether it be searching or browsing to find a song, borrowing a book or putting one in your wish list, or downloading an audiobook to your device, we will help you figure it all out.

In order to use the Book a Librarian service, simply call or stop by and ask to sign up. We will have you fill out a short form with your contact information and a description of what you'd like to learn. The request gets assigned to a staff person knowledgeable in that subject area. That staff person will then contact you to schedule a time to meet.

If you have any questions about the Book a Librarian service, or any other service the library provides, please stop by to see us or call 402-564-7116.