

Librarian's Shelf by Karen Connell

Prepare to Buy or Repair Your Car

Summer seems to be the time of year for tackling projects, and working on or purchasing a car is certainly a project! Whether you are looking to repair the car you own, purchase a new one, or even take your driving test, the Columbus Public Library is here to help. With online access to Chilton and practice driving tests, and in-library access to Consumer Reports, we can provide you with the information you need to buy or repair a vehicle, and even pass your driving test.

Chilton Library can be accessed in the library or on your own device with an internet connection. Simply go to our website, cplconnect.us and follow the link to Chilton Library under Digital Library Quicklinks. After entering your library card number, select your vehicle's year, make, and model. You will then be provided with maintenance and specification tables, step by step service and repair instructions, a labor estimating tool, vacuum and wiring diagrams, close-up photographs and illustrations, and of course a print tool so you can print out exactly what you need. Chilton Library also offers ASE technician test preparation quizzes for those of you studying for your certification in various areas of automotive repair.

Driving test preparation can also be accessed from the library's website in the Digital Library Quicklinks section of the homepage or on the Digital Library page. Simply click Driving-Tests.org to access this free tutorial website. Included are car, motorcycle, and CDL tests and handbooks. There is also a Nebraska DMV frequently asked questions page to help you be prepared for your trip to the DMV. There are also a few tests that can be taken in Spanish. There are a variety of practice tests to take ranging from Easy to Hardest with varying amounts of questions each. Some tests are multiple choice and give you the answer with an explanation right away. Others give no hints or explanations and can be topical like the Road Sign Test or the Fines and Limits test. Work your way through all the tests and you'll be sure to pass the DMV test with ease! Columbus Public Library subscribes to the Consumer Reports magazine and purchases the Buying Guide each year for the collection. The buying guides and magazine issues are a great resource for professional reviews of a wide variety of consumer products, including motor vehicles. The 2017 Buying Guide includes "highs and lows of the 2017 models," "rating the 2017 models," "used cars: the most reliable and the ones to avoid," "detailed used car reliability," and "tire ratings" under their Autos section. Consumer Reports magazine and buying guides are available for use in the library, and past issues can be checked out with your library card.

For those of you who do not have a library card, stop by today with a valid photo ID and proof of address to sign up for your free library card if you live, work, or attend school in Platte County. Those who qualify by working or attending school will also need to show proof of employment or enrollment to get their free library card.

If you have any questions about these or any of our resources, or how to obtain a library card, stop by or give us a call at 402-564-7116.