

# WHAT'S IN YOUR WALLET?

by Pat Anderson

WHAT'S IN YOUR WALLET? is a television commercial seen and heard over and over and over. It's a good question. What is in your wallet? I hope it's a library card from the Columbus Public Library. One of the best perks of a Columbus Library Card is the availability of knowledgeable staff who are technically savvy and willing to assist you in accessing these electronic resources. Visit the website, call, or stop by.

Taking a trip and wanting to be prepared? Use your card electronically to find resources such as books, magazines, and DVDs specific to your destination. AtoZ the USA & AtoZ the World are two resources covering 100 topics in 175 countries including the USA. If you wish to explore a foreign language, try Mango. Mango provides online language learning of 50 different languages on both your computer and mobile device. Traveling by car? Explore Chilton which has repair and maintenance on cars and light trucks from 1940 to the present.

Your library card gives you access to NebraskaAccess, which includes databases provided by the State of Nebraska. You can access Biography Reference Center, Legal Information Reference Center, Consumer Health Complete, Explora, MasterFILE Complete, MyHeritage, Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection, Science & Technology Collection, and Small Business Reference Center. You can access these from home by calling the Library Help desk for a password.

Are you a student or thinking about becoming one? Check out Foundation Center Databases to find grants and scholarships as well as tutorials for nonprofit organizations. You also have access to computers, printers, and private rooms for study. Testing & Education Reference Center provides online practice tests including entrance exams, certification and licensing tests.

Interested in following Wall Street and the ups and downs of the market? Value Line is a subscription service used to evaluate stocks. You can access it online at no cost to you.

Your library card also allows you to download books, magazines, and music. Freeding, CloudLibrary, Overdrive Audio Books and eBooks, EBSCOhost Research, and RBdigital provide access electronically to both computers and mobile devices. Freegal Music provides free and legal music downloads and customized streaming.

Your library card still offers the traditional services associated with a brick and mortar building. Stop in anytime and see many people sitting in a pleasant atmosphere reading newspapers, magazines, and books. The computer area is usually busy, and printing is available for a small fee per page. Youth students are busy in their area with adult supervision. The children's area is nearby with plenty of activities. The staff has scheduled a variety of programs open to the public as varied as baking kolaches to musical performances. And don't forget the Art Gallery in the lower level!

Most credit cards in your wallet have some kind of fee assessed, such as an annual membership fee, interest on unpaid balances, or late fees. Your library card is free if you live, work, or attend school in Platte County. The only fees assessed are a fine for each day you are late returning an item, or if an item is brought back damaged. Late fees vary from ten cents to fifty cents a day depending on the item. Overdue projectors and screens are fifty dollars per day.

If you have a Columbus Public Library card, you are one smart consumer. Now use it!

