Librarian's Shelf by Rachelle McPhillips

Get Connected at Your Library

This week I had several conversations with coworkers at Columbus Public Library about the things they have purchased using the internet. Two of us bought robot vacuums from an online retailer, and others discussed ordering groceries online. What a time to be alive, friends, when robots will vacuum your house and you can get milk and eggs without trudging through the supermarket!

When I started working at CPL eleven years ago, this time of year meant we had to make room for scads of tax forms from both the federal government and the State of Nebraska. Today, we have a slim, all-in-one booklet of federal tax forms and schedules, an instruction booklet from the IRS, and a handout with information to contact the state if you would like paper forms mailed to you.

Federal income tax forms can be found on the first floor in the east wing. If you need additional forms, library staff at the information desk will print them for you or help you log into a computer to print them yourself. Black and white copies at your library are just $.10 per page.

We are also gearing up for the 2020 Census. This year you will be able to complete the census online. It is important to count everyone, so the library is working with Heartland Workers Center and the Complete Count committee in Columbus to help our community members get counted this year.

From the Census website:

"As mandated by the U.S. Constitution, the census is a once-every-decade count of everyone living in the country. When we know how many people live in your community, organizations, and businesses are better equipped to evaluate the services and programs needed, such as clinics, schools, and roads. It also determines how seats in Congress are distributed among the 50 states. In March of 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau will send every household an invitation to complete a simple questionnaire about who lives at your address on April 1st. You will have the opportunity to respond online, by phone, or by mail, and federal law keeps those responses safe and secure."

Visit https://2020census.gov for more information. Watch the library's calendar for events at CPL in March and April.

At Columbus Public Library, we understand that there are varying levels of proficiency and comfort when it comes to using technology. It is important to us that you have access to the information and resources you need. Visit the library for Tech Tuesday, every Tuesday afternoon from 2-4 pm for help using your devices and our resources.

We have an entire Digital Library full of online resources for our cardholders. Library cards are free for people who live, work, or go to school in Platte County. Bring in your photo identification and proof of eligibility and get your card in minutes. For visitors who are not eligible for a borrower's card, we offer a free Digital Library card that grants access to our computer lab and our Digital Library resources.

If you have questions about any of our services, please stop by or call 402-564-7116 opt. 2.