

“Librarian’s Shelf” by Rachelle McPhillips

Kick Reading into OverDrive

A couple of weeks ago, reference librarian, Heather St. Clair discussed Columbus Public Library's free downloadable audiobook service, OverDrive. She said four things are required to take advantage of this service: a library card, internet access, a computer that meets minimum requirements, and the OverDrive Media Console. Having three out of four, I decided to try the service at home using three different MP3 devices. My new RCA mp3 player (M4304-A), my daughter's Sansa Fuze, and my son's iTouch.

From the library homepage, I clicked the OverDrive icon in the sidebar. On the OverDrive homepage, I clicked "More..." under the Fiction heading. Browsing the Young Adult shelf, I found M.T. Anderson's "Feed." I've been meaning to read this novel set in the future when technology has evolved and human minds are connected with a kind of super internet. In this world, product placement is taken to a whole new level, triggered by sights, sounds, and thoughts and is fed directly into the brain.

I added the book to my cart and proceeded to checkout. Once checkout was confirmed, the book was available to download. Because I hadn't used OverDrive on my computer before, I had to download and install the OverDrive Media Console. The download took a couple of minutes and the program walked me through the process. I plugged in the RCA player and clicked "Transfer" in the console. A few clicks and a few minutes later, I was listening to "Feed."

The audiobook file for "Feed" is compatible with Apple products, too. I had to install iTunes in order to transfer the file to the iTouch device. Transferring the book to this device did require that I follow the troubleshooting steps outlined in the "eHelp" section of the OverDrive website. I changed a couple of settings and the file transferred to the iTouch.

"When You Reach Me" by Rebecca Stead is a middle-grade novel that has gotten great reviews and is a good choice for my daughter. Main character Miranda is a sixth grader growing up in New York in the late 1970s. She receives letters that she believes are from someone who knows the future. The notes also lead her to believe that she alone can prevent someone's death. I checked out this audiobook on OverDrive and downloaded it to the console. I connected the Sansa Fuze and clicked "Transfer." The program found the new player and transferred it without any trouble.

Young adult fiction lovers aren't the only readers who can enjoy OverDrive. Nonfiction listeners will find "American Rebel: The Life of Clint Eastwood" by Marc Eliot and "The Last Lecture" by Randy Pausch. Looking for new fiction? Log on and place a hold for Sue Grafton's "U is for Undertow" or David Baldacci's "True Blue." Search for favorite titles, authors, and narrators and listen to them all without ever leaving home.

If you have any questions about OverDrive or any library service, please call 402-564-7116.