

Librarian's Shelf by Jill Owens

Online tool can help you manage your increased checkouts

How would you like to be able to check your account, place holds, and renew books from anywhere with an internet connection? If you are a Columbus Public Library or Bookmobile cardholder you can do this for many library items.

Any cardholder (bookmobile or city cards) whose account is in good standing may use this online tool for library books; unfortunately it cannot be used for items on the bookmobile at this time because the bookmobile computer is not online.

Detailed instructions with easy to follow step-by-step pictures may be found at columbusne.us/library. Once on the website go to E-Services then "Holds & Renewals."

Your user ID is your library card number with no spaces. You may get your PIN by requesting it from library staff.

The system will allow renewals and holds only on items that a person would be able to renew or place holds on when in the library. For example, at this time, we do not do holds on or renew DVDs. The system will not allow renewals on items that are on hold for another patron or have already been renewed.

You can use this tool to check when your items are due, even if you don't use it for holds and renewals.

Columbus Public Library has increased the number of books, recorded books, DVDs, CDs, magazines, newspapers, and pattern templates that may be checked out at a time. Additionally, more items are renewable. The bookmobile has also increased its checkout limit on books.

This change that was effective last month is the realization of one of our goals. Other goals from last year included a better young adult space, getting all the young adult materials in one area, and moving the young adult staff office close to the materials and space. 2011 also saw the implementation of a self-check station for patrons on the go.

And just starting this week came the change that was announced at the beginning of October.

The library now opens at 9:30 on weekdays instead of 10:00 a.m. The new hours are Monday - Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Friday 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., and Sunday 1:30 – 5:00 p.m. This will bring the library to a total of 64 open hours a week. As you know, the electronic/online services are available 24/7, and now physical accessibility will be increased as well.

Recent memorials for the Library Foundation are: From Henry and Lowene Werkmeister in memory of Beatrice "Betsy" Eden; from Dick and Patti Luebbe in memory of Merle Blaser; from Lucille Karges in memory of Merlin Ziff; and from Vern and Ruby Beckman and Mr. and Mrs. Dean Soulliere in memory of Barbara Tucek. Dick and Patti Luebbe and Jeff and Heidi Luebbe also memorialized Shirley Zegar.

Lillian Jackson was memorialized by Mr. and Mrs. Leon Wragge, Vern and Ruby Beckmann, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Klug, Colleen Gehrhold, John and Martha Davidson, and Mr. and Mrs. Dean Soulliere.

Bud Walker, the Calico Quilt Club, and the Columbus Woman's Club also donated to the Foundation.