

Librarian's Shelf by Rachelle McPhillips

Library Serves Patrons At Home

The Columbus Public Library offers outreach service to those who cannot visit the library themselves. This program is for those who are homebound, living in a retirement community, or assisted living facility and cannot regularly visit the library on their own.

The outreach program is very flexible. You can request specific books yourself or have them chosen for you based on your preferences. If you would like books chosen for you, we will discuss whether you like non-fiction or fiction, regular, large print, or recorded books. We will talk about your favorite authors and genres as well. At your request, I can keep a record of the items you have checked out using the outreach service. This prevents having the same book selected for you multiple times.

The outreach program has dedicated volunteers who pick up books from the library, deliver them to your door, and return the books that need to come back. Your schedule is always my priority when arranging volunteers to deliver your books. Once I have received your request for service, volunteers can typically bring the books to you within twenty-four hours.

Outreach program participants have an extended loan period of four weeks for books. If you are a voracious reader who prefers more frequent delivery, I am currently able to accommodate that need. Likewise, you do not have to receive books every month. Just call me at the library when you are ready for more books.

Outreach patrons can hold their own cards, as well. If you usually need the home delivery but can occasionally visit the library, you are welcome to check out books during those visits. We will be happy to see you!

The outreach program has recently expanded services to provide mini-libraries to assisted living facilities and retirement communities. Each month, twenty different books can be brought to the organization for residents to browse and read. Please contact me if you are interested in this service.

If you do not need outreach services, but would like to support this wonderful program, I encourage you to call me and ask how you can volunteer. Volunteers are called on a rotating basis and I do my best to make sure everyone gets a turn to deliver. This can be a very rewarding way to give without dedicating heaps of time.

If you have questions about the outreach program, or any of the services offered here at CPL, please call 402-562-4201. You can also email me at rmcphil@columbusne.us.