

There's an App for That

Your bank and pharmacy probably have an app, your favorite department store has an app, even your favorite fast food restaurant has an app. Apps are software programs that have specific functions and are tailored to the device on which you are using them. There are also web/online apps that are software programs you access via a web browser. In this article I will be focusing on mobile apps; apps that can be downloaded to your mobile device such as a smartphone or tablet.

Apps can do simple tasks, like Broken Screen from Ape Apps that imposes an image of a broken screen on your device's screen. Some apps that are more complex could be modified versions of websites customized for your device. For example, with Amazon's app, menus are different and the layout of content is modified to fit the screen size of your device. Other apps allow you to download content to your device so it can be accessed without an internet or data connection. The list goes on and on.

Columbus Public Library offers many online resources such as AtoZ the World, America's Newspapers, and Chilton Auto Repair that can all be accessed via web browsers. Some of our online resources also have apps that make using the resource easier on mobile devices. Zinio, Freegal Music, and OverDrive all offer apps available for Android and iOS devices.

Zinio offers the ability to subscribe to and download popular magazines for reading on your mobile device. If you use Zinio with Columbus Public Library you can choose from over 40 magazine subscriptions to download and there is no limit to how many you can subscribe to at once (except of course the amount of memory on your device). Simply go to your device's app market and download Zinio to get started. Then go to our website, www.columbusne.us/library and click the E-Materials link. Scroll down to the Zinio section to open a User Guide or follow the link to sign in.

Freegal Music allows library card holders to download three songs of their choice each week to keep. Again, the app can be found in your device's app market and downloaded to your device. Simply sign in to the Freegal Music app with your library card number to download the songs of your choice. Once downloaded, the songs can be played in your device's music player or transferred to another device.

Unlike Freegal Music and Zinio, where the content you download can be accessed indefinitely, OverDrive offers material for checkout. When your checkout period ends, the content can no longer be opened on your device. You can of course check out the material again if you haven't finished, as long as no one else has placed the item on hold. OverDrive offers over 7000 ebooks and nearly 4600 audiobooks from which to choose.

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