

“Librarian’s Shelf” by Heather St. Clair

Columbus Public Library Resources on the Web

In past articles, I have written about some of the Columbus Public Library’s online resources. We have health, genealogical, auto and engine repair, audiobook, e-book, author, and video resources, all available at www.columbuslibrary.info/resources.htm. We have recently had a couple changes to our internet resources.

Newly added to our online resources is a database of United States newspapers and other news resources. Patrons can access articles from “The New York Times,” “The Wall Street Journal,” and “The Washington Post,” as well local newspapers from around the country.

Nebraska newspapers include the “Lincoln Journal Star,” “Omaha World-Herald,” “The Grand Island Independent,” and “Columbus Telegram.” The years available for each newspaper vary, with the “Omaha World-Herald” going back the furthest for Nebraska newspapers to 1983. The articles from the “Columbus Telegram” date back as far as 2006.

In addition to newspapers, you can also access video from Lincoln’s KOLN and Omaha’s WOWT news stations. Articles and videos post within a day or two of publication or airing.

You can search both Nebraska and other U.S. papers for political, travel, health business, agricultural, and industrial information. You can also locate obituaries and even find articles for school projects. All this is available, in addition to getting your local news.

Our other change is not the addition of a new resource, but additional access to OverDrive. OverDrive is your portal to download audiobooks and e-books. Previously, you could only download and transfer audiobooks if you had your own computer with internet at home. However, we have added a computer station at the library that will allow you to checkout audiobooks and transfer them to your digital audio device, without needing your own computer or internet connection.

In most cases, it will be as simple as connecting your device, checking out audiobooks (you will need a Columbus Public Library or Platte County Bookmobile card to do this), transferring the books to your device and logging out.

Depending on what device you have, we may need to take some additional time to install the software that comes with your player. We also have a standard USB, mini USB, iPod and Zune cable available for transferring. You will need to bring your own transfer cord if your player is not compatible with one of these cords. Unfortunately, the station is unable to transfer e-books to e-readers.

We are excited to be able to provide you with additional access to audiobooks and hope to be able to do the same with e-books in the future.

All of our electronic resources are available to use within the library, except to download OverDrive

e-books, and other than Ancestry.com, all our resources are available from a home computer with internet access.

If you have questions about these or other materials, please feel free to stop in the library, call us at 564-7116, or email us at library@columbusne.us.