"Librarian's Shelf" by Heather St. Clair

E-Books at the Columbus Public Library

The Columbus Public Library has recently added over 3,000 new books to our non-fiction collection, all in the form of e-books. The books cover a wide range of topics, from art, biology, technology, health, law, history, business, and more.

Here is a small sampling of titles available from our NetLibrary Collection: "New Puppy Owner's Manual," by Angela Fitch; "Reading CSI: Crime TV Under the Microscope," by Michael Allen; "Microsoft Office 2007 Quicksteps," by Carole Boggs Matthews; "Encyclopedia of Volcanos," (sic) by Eric Woods; "Lake and Sea Monsters," by Linda Godfrey; "Stress-free Pregnancy Guide," by Carol Livoti; and "46 Science Fair Projects for the Evil Genius," by Robert Bonnet.

Every one of the 3,000 plus books can be found and accessed through the Columbus Public Library's online catalog. When you perform a search in our catalog, available print and NetLibrary e-books will show up in the results. It is very easy to distinguish the print books from the e-books; e-books will have NetLibrary where the call number is for print books and [electronic resource] will appear at the end of the title.

To actually view the book, there will be an image of a link in a chain you will need to click on. If your results list multiple books, the link will be in the lower, right corner of the box containing the information for the book. If the e-book is the only result for your search, you will be taken directly to the detailed view of the book, where the link is after "A Look Inside."

Anyone can come into the library and use a library computer or a laptop connected to the library's wireless internet. Library card holders can also access the books from home 24/7. For at home access, you will need to visit reference staff, at the library, to set up an account that will allow you to view them outside the library. You will only have to set up the account once and you must have an active Columbus Public Library or Platte County Bookmobile card.

Minimum requirements for home access are Internet Explorer 7.0 or Firefox 2.0 and Adobe Reader 8.0, to view the books. Once you have clicked the link from our catalog, it will take you to NetLibrary's page for the book, where you will click on "View this eBook." Most books will then open within the page in Adobe Reader, where you can view the book page-by-page, jump to a chapter using the Table of Contents, or type in a specific page number.

To use the various Adobe tools, such as the zoom function, right click over the page displayed. You can also use the search box in the lower, left corner to search the entire book. You will also find a dictionary tab, in case you run across an unfamiliar word. You can also print a limited number of pages from the book, if needed.

We will also be adding more titles throughout the year. If you need help or have any 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. Our staff members are here to help.