

National library week – a look back at the JCLD

Available resources, ebook update and changing library hours

National Library Week is April 7-13 this year. What a great time to celebrate libraries and remember how they benefit their communities! The other day, someone said, "People don't use libraries like they used to." That started me thinking about how people have historically viewed libraries and how

libraries have evolved. Before joining the Jefferson County Library District, I was the director of university libraries at a small private college in the Midwest. At the time, it was known for providing degree completion programs for working adults. Classes were offered online (which was ahead of its time in the early 2000s) and in person. My first project after being hired was to dismantle the physical library and convert it to a 100% online library. Most students studied in the evening, and the goal was to make library resources available 24 x 7 x 365. The library resources were online databases, eBooks,



and other trusted resources.

Because of my background with digital libraries, I knew that in addition to the materials and resources available at a physical library, people could also access library resources from their homes or offices. I had a clear vision that the Jefferson County Library could meet the demands of both types of library users.

I believe a community library is a place to meet, learn, find answers to simple or complex research questions, relax, collaborate, and much more. With its online presence, a community library is also a place to access research resources (databases, online collections, guides to help

you find information on specific topics). Without leaving your home/office, you can also put materials on hold and pick them up later; check out an eBook, audiobook, or magazine online and read it on your tablet. You can reserve a meeting room (ok, more accurately, right now, you can reserve THE meeting room). You can reserve the whisper room to make a private phone call, create a sound recording, or tell us your story. Watch a movie, bring your young children to storytimes, or for creative play.

Is our library a place to check out physical books/movies/magazines? Absolutely. But we're so much more.

- Look up your ancestors on Ancestry.com (in the library) or HeritageQuest (from home or the library).
- Consult with our resident genealogy expert.
- Get a document notarized

at no charge.

• Ask for technical help – about library-related products and services, of course. But hey, we've tried our best to help with various tech issues. We don't see obstacles; we see challenges!

• Read the current issue of local newspapers.

• Are you writing an obituary and a little stuck? We can help with that, too.

• Can't make it to the library and need your books delivered to your home? We can do that!

• Use a computer, connect to free WIFI, check out a hotspot.

• School field trips to the library? We don't call it "Field Trip Friday" for no reason.

• Meet at a safe community gathering place.

• Take home a curriculum crate – we have so many we're looking for a better place to store them (<https://www.jcld.org/curriculum-crates>).

I'll wait until later to share some of the activities we're doing outside of the library and the community partnerships we've created and continue to create. I know that we can always accomplish more together than we can alone.

eBook Transition Update

We've been working with the eBook/audiobook/magazine provider on the transition from using the Deschutes Public Library catalog to our own. Beginning May 1, we will overlap

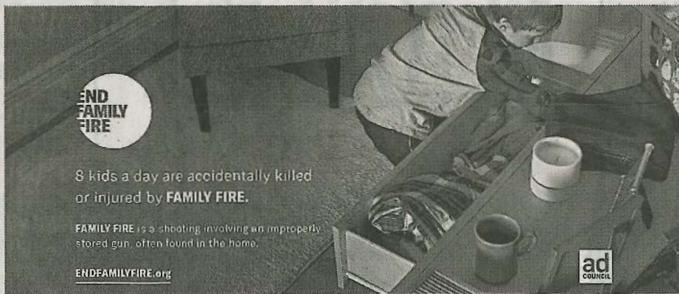
our Jefferson County Library District Libby/Overdrive collection and the Deschutes Public Library (DPL) collection. On May 31, 2024, we will no longer have access to the DPL collection. We already have access to our account and our Libby/Overdrive users, so we can identify books that DPL has that we don't have yet. To help you prepare for the transition, we are setting up a page on our website detailing how to complete the transition. If we have your email, we will be sending instructions. If you don't have an email address on file with the library, we will send information through regular mail.

Changing Library Hours

Beginning in July, we will be opening again on Friday. I'm not sure of the hours yet, but you'll be the first to find out when that's figured out. In the meantime, I encourage you to take a minute to stop by the library this week and say hello; we'd love to show you around.

When I was young, I was always the girl you could find at the library, so this month's quote is remarkably accurate for me and, I think, for many people who choose to work in libraries.

"I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of a Library."
Jorge Luis Borges (1899-1986, Argentine writer)



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