

A wallet and purse can be full of many items: identification, cash, credit cards, gift cards, photos of loved ones, rewards cards to your favorite eateries - the list can be endless. Depending on how often you clean it, you might even find things you've completely forgotten. Most recently I found an expired coupon to a restaurant that only has locations in Georgia. I haven't visited Georgia in almost four years, so why did I forget this random coupon was in my wallet? Because I tucked it in one of the two pockets I have deemed "the collectors of randomness." A purse or wallet is like a TARDIS (bigger on the inside, for any non-Doctor Who fans out there) and you never know what might fall out. In addition to classic wallet inhabitants, the one that can truly take you anywhere in the world is a library card.

You've heard of dragons, wizards, and faraway kingdoms full of mysterious creatures, but real magic is in the form of a flat yellow rectangle with a barcode on the front. With this rectangle you can ride on a dragon, talk with wizards, and visit those faraway kingdoms to go on adventures. You can even join in on the fun of a spy mission, climb mountains, watch people fall in and out of love, feel part of the royal family, or listen as former U.S. Presidents talk about their lives. When you have this card in your hand you are also able to learn countless subjects, like animals, technology, sports, and world history. It's pretty awesome!

The best thing about a library card is that getting one is completely free! Once you have yours, any resource the library provides is right at your fingertips. Want a book about cows? You got it! Want to enjoy some winter sports (if we ever get substantial snow)? You can check out a pair of snowshoes! Always wanted to learn how to play a musical instrument? Borrow a real guitar or ukulele from our collection! Want to read with the convenience of a tablet or cell phone? Download an e-book directly from the library's catalog and take your reading anywhere you go.

(Now close your eyes and imagine you're watching an infomercial.)

But wait, that's not all! You can borrow American Girl dolls, have a family game night by taking home one of our board games, check out the night sky through the library's telescope, and visit local attractions like the Utica Zoo and museums by using one of our passes. All of this can be yours by stopping in the Kirkland Town Library and signing up for one of those magical yellow rectangles.

I know, I know. This is quite pushy, and advertise-y, but a library card is the one item that belongs in everyone's wallet. Think of it as your free ticket to anywhere you want to go, and it doesn't take up that much space. So, come on by to the KTL if you are interested in becoming a patron or if you want a tour of the library to see what all we have to offer!