

## New Digital Resources by Ruth Gilbert

I don't really make New Year's resolutions, but I do feel a sense of invigoration and domestic purpose every January. I suppose I resolve to hunker down at home to read books, start new knitting projects, and organize my pantry. I've got a fresh year to set things in order and remember what brings me joy. It's now February, and all I've managed to do so far is read two books. But there are some new library resources I'm so excited to use, and to share with you and your families, to help discover more new books, activities, and knowledge that will bring joy all year long.

You don't even have to leave the house! Visit [kirklandtownlibrary.org](http://kirklandtownlibrary.org) and select "Digital Resources" from the Collections drop-down menu. There you'll find a treasure trove of resources for children and parents. All you need is your library card number and pin.

If your family likes crafts, or if your New Year's resolution is to take a little more time for your own creative interests, let Creativebug be your first stop. It offers video classes on a huge variety of topics, like sewing, drawing, painting, and screen printing. The instructors are experts, and the things they'll help you create are cute and useful. There are classes just for kids which you can explore by age and type of activity. The feature I'm most excited to try is the Daily Practice option, which provides a daily video to challenge you to create a little something every day.

If your family is in need of any baby or toddler gear this year and your resolution is to research the best products, look no further than Consumer Reports. Through the library you now have full access to all their articles and ratings related to everything baby. They've tested and rated more than 1000 products so you can make the best purchasing choices for your family. They cover everything from car seats to bottle warmers to diapers.

If you, like me, just want to read more books this year, we have two new digital resources to help you do that. The first, ComicsPlus, brings a huge collection of graphic novels to you through your phone, tablet, or computer. You'll find popular titles for kids like Big Nate, manga series, lots of things from Disney, and books for adults. And they're always available! This resource is perfect for families who need some new books on the go.

The second is NovelList Plus, which is the place to go if you need help finding your next favorite book. You can browse titles by genre and reader's age, but my favorite feature lets you explore by moods like "Melancholy and Lyrical" or "Fast-paced and Funny." It's also really useful if your child has just finished a favorite series and doesn't know what to read next. Take a look at the "For Fans Of..." feature and find recommendations for titles to read if your child loved Harry Potter, Percy Jackson, The Bad Guys, and many others. When you find a book you're interested in, NovelList provides a link to "Check Availability" that will quickly tell you if that title is available for checkout.

If there's a teen in your household who has resolved to prepare for a standardized test this year, take a look at Mometrix eLibrary, which has a variety of test prep materials for exams like the SAT, ACT, and AP and Regents exams. You'll find printable study guides, practice exams, and interactive flashcards.

Whatever your families' hopes and plans are for this year, your local public library is here to help!