

Digital Resources

By Laura Stoll, Assistant to the Director

The Kirkland Town Library has an excellent reputation for the unique items you can borrow: camping tents, park and museum passes, cake pans, dolls, and board games, not to mention countless other things with more on the way! If you think these are fun and helpful, you should check out our collection of digital resources. It's equally useful and also lots of fun!

All of these sites can be reached directly through our website by clicking on the Collections tab and then the link for Digital Resources. (www.kirklandtownlibrary.org/digital-resources). You'll need your library card number and sometimes your PIN to login. (Call us or stop in if you need that information.) Below are some common questions and how our digital resources can help and inspire.

What should I read next?

Check out NoveList Plus! You can browse by the tone and subject of a book, check out their curated reading lists, or enter a title and get read-alikes. If you read my last column, you may remember that I enjoyed Geraldine Brooks' book "March." NoveList Plus suggested I read "Marilla of Green Gables" by Sarah McCoy, which looks great! NoveList includes a link directly to our catalog so I could place a hold. There is a version just for kids and teens called NoveList K-8 Plus which offers the same features but focuses on books for younger age groups.

I need a new toaster but there are too many choices! Help!

Never fear, Consumer Reports to the rescue! As a longtime reader of the paper version of the magazine, I was skeptical about reading it online but it's actually even better. Through the website, you can see reviews and ratings, get expert advice, and find other helpful related articles. Plus, you know all the information is up-to-date and they even provide direct links to online retailers.

I've been thinking about working on my family tree but where do I start?

Before you buy a paid subscription to Ancestry, try out the free version here at the Library. You'll need to be here in the building or connected to our WiFi to get access but once you're logged in, you can investigate generations of your family. Start by entering the name of one of your grandparents and Ancestry will search its enormous database of birth, marriage, and death records, along with the U.S. Census, photographs, military information, and more.

I'd like to make some homemade gifts for the holidays this year but I need inspiration.

CreativeBug offers online video arts and crafts workshops and techniques for all ages and abilities. Learn something new or refresh your skills. Browse the video classes available and learn how to knit a holiday garland, make custom wrapping paper, or cook giftable goods. If you already have a stash of materials at home, use the search bar to enter what you already have on hand and get suggestions for projects.

I need to update my resume but it's been so long, I don't know how it's done.

Two options can help. First, visit Tutor.com and click on their college and career tab. There you can choose from a variety of resources, including an option to upload your resume and cover letter for a professional to review. Mometrix is a test prep site but it also has some excellent career resources like tips for updating your resume, sample interview questions, and tips for negotiating a job offer.

I'm going on a trip and I don't want to carry a bunch of library books!

Between Libby and ComicsPlus, you'll have enough audiobooks, ebooks, and graphic novels to satisfy the whole family for the entire vacation. You can use both of these services on your phone, tablet, or computer and if you download them ahead of time, you won't need to use WiFi or cell data to read or listen.

With the election coming up, I'd like to know a little more about the Electoral College.

Check out Credo Reference. It offers fact-based background information from hundreds of encyclopedias and dictionaries. A search for "Electoral College" brought back more than 1,000 articles; the first one, from the Encyclopedia of American Political Parties and Elections, was easy to read and understand. Plus, Credo Reference has a mind map that connects similar topics so all you have to do is click to read about election day, past U.S. elections, and how they are held in other countries.

The next time you're tempted to answer a question with Google, try our digital resources instead. The information is thorough, accurate, and easy to understand.