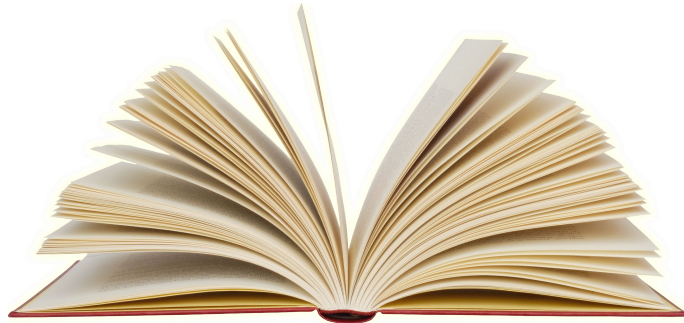


Ontario Public Libraries



Yours to Discover



What is the public library?

- Most communities in Ontario have a public library
- Libraries hold educational and entertainment resources for people of all ages!
- AND it is **FREE** to get a library card!

The library...

- Is a place to learn new skills, languages and spend time with friends and family
- Holds workshops and classes of interest to the community
 - Story hour for families
 - Computer classes
 - Skill development for all ages
- Is full of friendly and knowledgeable staff to help answer your questions about books, library programs, your community, and more!

How to get a library card

- Visit your local library
- Bring identification that shows your picture and address (e.g. driver's license or passport, plus a piece of mail)
- Children can get a card as well (no ID is needed)
 - They need their parent/guardian's permission to get a library card
- Library cards are FREE
 - Many libraries charge a small fee if you need to replace the library card
- Make sure you bring your card on each visit in order to borrow materials!

What you can access

- Books, movies, music, magazines and more!
- Public computers and wi-fi
- 24/7 Digital Library in-library or from home
 - Download ebooks, music, movies
- Interlibrary Loan: If your library does not own an item, they can acquire the item from another library for you
- Multilingual & ESL materials
- Visiting library services
 - For users who are unable to visit the library because of illness or disability

Library website

- Public libraries in Ontario have websites that:
 - Provide information about in-branch programs
 - Have a catalogue of available materials and allow you to place holds on/reserve materials
 - Provide access to special databases of information (e.g. Consumer Reports, health and wellness, online language learning programs, and more)
- Access the library's website from home or while in-branch; library staff is happy to help you learn how to use the website!

“How long can I keep materials?”

- Items that you borrow from the library have different **loan periods**, or lengths of time you can keep materials
- For example, many books can be borrowed for up to three weeks; DVDs may be loaned for up to one week
- Each library system sets their own loan periods; ask library staff how long materials can be borrowed from your library
- If you need to keep materials longer than their loan period, you may be able to renew them
 - Only if no one else is waiting for them!

“How long can I keep materials?”

- If you return materials late, you may need to pay a fine
- Each library system also sets their own fees
- Avoid paying fees by returning materials on time or renewing them!

What else you can do at the library

- Attend programs, such as storytime or Summer Reading Club for children, genealogy workshops, book clubs for adults, job search sessions, or technology tutoring
 - Most library programs are free, though some may require a small registration fee
 - Programs may be drop-in or may require pre-registration
- Study in quiet areas or quiet rooms
- Use in-library resources, including local or international newspapers or educational and developmentally appropriate play centres for children
- Many libraries partner with community agencies (e.g. Public Health) that provide service to users in-library (e.g. Well Baby Clinics)
 - One spot for many services!