



BETWEEN THE PAGES

Huntsville Public Library Monthly Newsletter



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 mghuntsvillelibrary.com

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**Monday-Friday
10am-7pm**

**Saturday
12pm-4pm**

BOOKS VS. DATABASES

BY MARY KOKOT, ADULT SERVICES COORDINATOR

Librarians often get requests from patrons for help in finding books. Recently, a teen-aged male patron asked if we had any craft type books to look at. After I asked him several questions as to what his favorite craft was, he pulled out of his backpack an intricately sculpted figure that he had created from pipe cleaners. Realizing the library's collection of art and craft books probably wouldn't have anything of interest for him, I showed him how to access the library's database webpage that has tens of thousands of articles on everything under the sun. After browsing the list of 20 different arts and crafts activities, he seemed most interested in two of them, sculpting and polymer clay. I clicked on sculpting which brought up an unmanageable 5,944 results. To narrow it down, I typed "sculpting mythical creatures" in the search box and received 20 results. The patron chose: Sculpting Mythical Creatures out of Polymer Clay: Making a Gnome, Pixie, Halfling, Fairy, Mermaid, Gorgon Vampire, Griffin, Sphinx, Unicorn, Centaur, Leviathan & Dragon! Color pictures and detailed instructions.

Each mythical creature has its own entry with detailed step-by-step instructions along with color pictures on how to create the creature with pipe cleaners and polymer clay. No matter what subject you want to know more about or if you want to find out how to do or make something, I am 99.9% sure you will find your answers in the TexShare Database.

Here's how to do it: from the library's website (myhuntsvillelibrary.com) select either Adult Database or Teen Database>TexShare Database>Hobbies and Craft Center>Arts and Crafts.

HOW TO PLACE A HOLD ON RAKUTEN OVERDRIVE

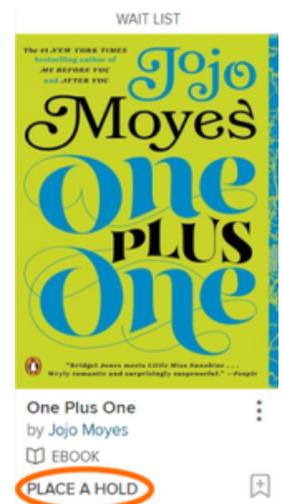
BY JALPA SHAH, IT COORDINATOR

Sometimes you can't borrow a digital title immediately on OverDrive, usually because another user is currently reading it or the title hasn't been released yet. Don't worry! you may be able to place a hold on that title. Once the book is ready for you to download, you will receive an email.

Titles that can't be borrowed immediately have banners saying "Wait list" or "Coming soon" along the top of the cover image.

To place a hold on a title, follow the steps below.

1. Click or tap "Place a hold" under a title (or on its details page)
2. If you've already provided your email address to your library's digital collection (by signing in with an OverDrive account, for example), the hold will be placed automatically. You'll be notified at that email address when the title is available for you (or, you can edit your email address for that hold if you'd like to use a different one).
3. If the digital collection doesn't have a saved email address for your account, you'll be prompted to enter and confirm one. Then, select "Place a hold."
4. When the title is available, it will be automatically checked out to you. You'll receive an email notification letting you know that it's waiting for you on your Loans page. If you don't want your holds to be automatically checked out to you, you can turn off automatic hold checkout.



CHILDREN'S Programming



School

HOMEWORK HELP
WEDNESDAYS, 4:30 PM
ELEMENTARY AND JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS

FAMILY COCOA STORY TIME
DECEMBER 19, 10:45 AM
FOR ALL AGES



FIRST FRIDAY BOOK CLUB
DECEMBER 7, 4:30 PM
3RD-7TH GRADERS

TEEN FILM CLUB (PIZZA&MOVIE)
THE MEG
DECEMBER 13, 4:30 PM
13-17 YEARS OLD ONLY



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT SHOWING
CHRISTOPHER ROBIN
DECEMBER 7, 5:30 PM
FOR ALL AGES

AFTER SCHOOL ZONE
DECEMBER 3, 4:30 PM
13-18 YEARS OLD ONLY



MOTHER GOOSE LAPSIT
MONDAYS, 10:30 AM
AGES 5 AND UNDER
NO PROGRAM ON DECEMBER 24

STEAM DAY: "DIY SNOW"
DECEMBER 21, 4:00 PM
FOR ALL AGES



STORY TIME
TUESDAYS 5:30 PM,
WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS, 10:45 AM
AGES 5 AND UNDER
NO PROGRAM ON DECEMBER 25



SITTERCISE
TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS, 10:00 AM



GOOGLE DOCS CLASS
TUESDAYS, 11:00 AM & 5:00 PM
REGISTRATION REQUIRED



FAMILY SEARCH.COM
THURSDAYS, 11:00 AM
REGISTRATION REQUIRED



BOOK CLUB AT THE HUNTSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
READER'S CHOICE
DECEMBER 13, 10:30 AM



ADULT

Programming



HELP FOR PARENTS OF RELUCTANT READERS

BY RACHEL MCPHAIL, CHILDREN'S COORDINATOR

Let me paint you a picture: You really want to encourage your children to read but they just aren't interested. Maybe they don't want to read a book for school or they aren't as excited by the classics as you were. Various parenting blogs offer the following advice:

- **Encourage reading for fun:** Find a book that your child may find entertaining. Even if it is not a highly acclaimed, award winning, or life changing book, just find a book that he or she may find pleasurable. Once they learn that they like reading, you can introduce them to War and Peace later.
- **Graphic novels are still reading:** Maybe your child is intimidated by the long walls of text on chapter book pages. A graphic novel, also called a comic book, may help. Graphic novels feature beautiful illustrations that are enhanced with narrative text. Oftentimes, dialogue is portrayed by thought or speech bubbles. Graphic novels even have their own section for literary awards. In Texas, the Maverick award is given to high quality graphic novels for 6th through 12th grades.
- **Find out their interests--even if they are outside the box:** You may be surprised at the plethora of topics in children's literature. Many of your child's favorite shows have had books published about them from Paw Patrol to Lego Ninjago. Even books about computer and video games are being published. The Huntsville Public Library has an assortment of Minecraft books.
- **Utilize technology:** If your child is a tech wizard, he or she may be more inclined to read if it involves technology. You don't have to be a tech wizard to access the Huntsville Public Library OverDrive collection of ebooks and audio books. Simply log in with your library card number and account pin number to instantly access the titles in the collection. Even better, OverDrive never closes like the library does and there are no late fees.
- **Embrace non-fiction:** Maybe your child just isn't a story person. Introduce your reluctant reader to the world of non-fiction and allow them to explore whatever topics they find interesting. Your child may enjoy reading about other cultures or hobbies instead of reading about a fantasy world.
- **Make it funny:** Reading does not have to be a purely serious endeavor. If your child prefers humor over adventure, try to find books with comical undertones. "The Book with no Pictures," the Captain Underpants series, and the Dragonbreath series are just a few examples of hilarious reads.
- **Model the behavior:** You can be a reading role model for your kids by modeling good literacy practices. Surround yourself with books to teach your children that books don't just belong in schools and libraries. Talk to your children about what you enjoy reading. Spend your "down time" reading instead of scrolling on your phone. If your child sees you enjoying reading or hears you talk about how excited you are to read the latest book by your favorite author, he or she is more likely to make reading a habit.

Find a book for your reluctant reader or pick up a book for yourself at the Huntsville Public Library. To save time, you can visit myhuntsvillelibrary.com to place items on hold or request items for the library to purchase. You can also access our OverDrive collection on the library's website or in your smartphone's app store.

5 MORE REASONS WHY LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS ARE STILL EXTREMELY IMPORTANT!

BY RENEE RUTH, IT COORDINATOR

1. Libraries Aren't Just Books: Technology is integrating itself into the library system, not bulldozing it. Pushing this trend to its logical extreme (although it's likely not to happen), we could eventually see libraries' entire stacks relegated to databases, and have books only accessible digitally. So where does that leave librarians? Are they being overtaken by technology, the timeless enemy of labor? We see it as we are moving forward with technology.

2. Mobile Devices are not the End of Books or Libraries: Predictions of the "end of the book" are a predictable response to digitization and other technologies, and the crystal ball of some in the pro-paper crowd seems to also reveal a naturally accompanying crumbling of civilization. One of the latest dark threats to paper is e-books downloadable to mobile devices. But e-books are not an all-consuming transition for readers. Radio lives on despite TV, film is still in high demand despite video, and people still talk on the telephone despite email. People who like paper books will continue to read paper books even if mobile downloads prompt the majority of publishers to release .

3. Library Attendance isn't falling, it's Just More Virtual: With approximately 50,000 visitors a year, attendance at the American History Archives at Wisconsin Historical Society has dropped 40% since 1987.

3. Library Attendance isn't falling, it's Just More Virtual: With approximately 50,000 visitors a year, attendance at the American History Archives at Wisconsin Historical Society has dropped 40% since 1987. This statistic, when set alone, may prove sufficient for anybody casually predicting the Collapse of the Library. But it is only half the story. The archives have also been digitized and placed online. Every year the library receives 85,000 unique online visitors. The number of schools offering online degrees is constantly on the rise as well. Many of these schools are improving their virtual libraries by the day.

4. Physical Libraries are adapting to Cultural Change: Anyone subscribing to the theories of 20th Century thinker Marshall McLuhan might say that along with changed life patterns brought on by electronic technology, knowledge that was once encased in books and compartmentalized by subject area is now being liberally disseminated in an explosion of democracy.

Indeed, this cultural change predates widespread use of the internet. For decades society has been seeking a more holistic understanding of the world, and increased access to information. The search for new methods of organizing educational structures (including libraries) has long been active. And while libraries might not be on many peoples "top ten cutting edge list", they have been adapting.

5. Eliminating Libraries would Cut Short an Important Process of Cultural Evolution: The library that we are most familiar with today, a public or academic institution that lends out books for free, is a product of the democratization of knowledge. In the old days, books weren't always so affordable, and private libraries, or book clubs, were a privilege of the rich. This started changing during the 1800's, with more public libraries popping up as a result of government initiatives.

The notion that libraries are a thing of the past and that humankind has sprouted wings and flown into a new era of self-guided technology and information services is not the case for all libraries. In reality, the quality of the web depends on guidance from the library model. While moderators do have clear the path for the new and savage cyber-scape, librarians have trail blazed significant parts of the journey.

So stop into the Huntsville Public Library and see all the services that we have to offer!

CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS: LIBRARIES COME TO THE RESCUE



BY RICHARD LANE, REFERENCE COORDINATOR

For many of us the holidays ahead have deeply held and special meanings. We look forward to festive meals and family gatherings. We gather to share family stories and anecdotes. We gather as cooks prepare family recipes passed down from one generation to the next. We surround ourselves with images, heirlooms and decorations reflecting our family traditions. Traditional and contemporary music lift our spirits even as the days grow short and winter clouds darken. Customs and traditions rekindle memories and promise that the winter solstice will be followed by brighter days ahead.

The terms custom and tradition are often used interchangeably. While custom and tradition are almost synonymous, there is a fine distinction between the meanings of the words. Webster and other dictionaries define custom and tradition in similar fashion. A custom is a commonly accepted manner of behaving or doing something in a particular society, place or time. A tradition is the transmission of customs or beliefs from generation to generation.

Historians and social scientists employ methodologies to define and distinguish customs and traditions. They identify patterns within cultures and trace their origins across lands and time. Art historians, as one example, display works from around the world as they explain in detail the evolutions of human artistic expression. Musicologist record and transcribe musical scores reflecting on the intricacies of the “beauty of form, harmony, and expression of emotion” conveyed through sound.

Books, journal articles and web entries related to customs and traditions have been published in great number. The elements of cultural geography and allied social sciences are vast and ever-growing and can be overwhelming to those searching to understand their family identity. Fortunately, libraries offer family historians and others the tools to explore the topic. Libraries have developed schemes to organized information in ways that can be systematically retrieved. Searching catalogs and databases using titles, authors, keywords and subjects is tried and true. There are also some very helpful online tutorials for those needing to hone their research skills. Librarians are a helpful bunch and take pride in helping their patrons. When stumped, see a librarian.