

# Library saves thousands by changing eBook collection

## Coffee Cuppers at Library will showcase changes at the current building

Spring is almost here; to me, that's a time of change and growth. We have some changes and growth at the Library to tell you about. Our eBook/audiobook collection is changing, and we continue to make progress with our building expansion.

### eBook Update - Preparing for Changes

I believe it was last year around this time that I shared my dilemma about the rising costs of eBooks available to you through the Libby app. The Library shares our catalog of available print materials and eBooks with the Deschutes Public Library and the Crook County Library. According to our consortium agreement, Deschutes Public Library charges the Jefferson County Library District (JCLD) \$1.00 per eBook checkout, which makes eBooks the Library's single, most considerable collection development expense. If we continue to contract with DPL for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, our per-item cost will increase by 30-100%. I don't think I

would be a responsible steward of public funds if I didn't investigate eBook alternatives. Investigate, I did. (Shout-out to the Crook County Library Director, Sarah Beeler, for her help identifying our best digital collection options.) Beginning July 1, 2024, the Jefferson County Library is joining the Oregon Digital Library Consortium (ODLC) eBook collection through the Libraries of Eastern Oregon (LEO). Our new digital collection will give you access to more than 30,000 eBooks and downloadable audiobooks.

### The Advantages of Switching Digital Collections

1. Decreased wait time. If you've requested a book through Libby from our current DPL library, you know there is often a long wait. By joining the Libraries of Eastern Oregon to access digital resources, we can maintain a JCLD side account to reduce wait times for our patrons by purchasing additional copies of high-hold and high-demand titles. We will have more control over our digital collection.

As an example, I'm on a

waiting list right now. I started at #30 on the list, and in the last three weeks, I've moved up to #15. I'll probably be able to check out the book in about three weeks. Through the Libraries of Eastern Oregon, we can see where our patrons are on a waitlist and purchase those books for our Library side account. Using my example of starting at #30 on the waitlist and getting access to the book in 6 weeks or longer, JCLD can purchase an electronic copy of the book, and then I move from #15 to #1 on the waitlist and am able to check out my book tomorrow.

2. We can develop our eBook collection based on our community's preferences. Libby users often ask if they can request a book, which we cannot do while using the Deschutes Public Library collection. By moving to a new collection, we can add books requested by our patrons.

3. Considerable cost saving. At \$1.00 per checkout through the Deschutes Public Library collection, we are on track to spend just over \$24,000 for patron eBook/audiobook access this fiscal year. Our cost for switching to the ODLC/LEO collection will be about \$7000 per year, plus any purchases we make to enhance our

own eBook collection. With this substantial saving, we will be able to add new resources.

4. Magazine access remains consistent. We will continue access to the magazine service, and all of our patrons will be able to access over 4,000 titles. All titles have unlimited simultaneous use, and patrons access them via the Libby app — no additional app (or promotion of an app) is necessary.

We will be following up with more detailed information in the coming months. The library team will be able to help you with this transition, and there will also be print and electronic instructions.

### Building Expansion

We are making steady progress on our Library expansion project. We are currently in the pre-design phase of the project, which is followed by concept design. Some feedback from our community engagement events and surveys includes incorporating design inspired by regional landscape and materials, balancing active community areas with quiet reading

and study spaces, including outdoor spaces for community gatherings and relaxation, and providing creative and engaging spaces for teens and children. A few more specific

ideas include seating with charging stations, easy access to computers and electronic resources, terrace seating, and incorporating art.

What's next? I might have been (ahem, I was) a little overzealous in hoping to have

more design information in time for our hosting of the Madras-Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours on Thursday, March 21. We do still have lots to share. For those who haven't visited the Library for a while, we have updated our existing building with new paint, flooring, and layout over the last four years. We will also share how things started, where we are now, and where we are going. The Jefferson County Library Association is sponsoring our event, so it's also an opportunity to meet some members of the Association's board. We hope to see you on the 21st.

### LIBRARY HAPPENINGS



Jane Ellen Innes

### Upcoming Programs

In addition to our ongoing programs — children's storytimes (English and Spanish), playtimes, and afternoon STEM — we have several special events scheduled over the next few weeks. Be sure to check the edition of Madras Pioneer that comes out on the last Wednesday of the month for the next month's programs and activities.

Talk-Abouts (starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Library)

■ Thursday, March 14 — Supporting Local Food, Emily Ralston from High Desert Food & Farm Alliance

■ Tuesday, March 26 — Houseplants: Happy & Healthy, Cindy Silook, owner of Where the Green Plants Grow

■ Friday Night Films — door opens at 6:30, the film begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Library

■ March 15 — Killers of the Flower Moon (2023, 3 hours 6 minutes, R)

■ March 22 — Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom (2023, 2 hours 4 minutes, PG-13)

■ March 29 — The Boys in the Boat (2023, 2 hours 3 minutes, PG-13)

*"The art of life is a constant readjustment to our surroundings." — Kakuzo Okakura*

# The first

