

Library to Add Digital Magazines Kris Wiley for The News Review

Based on the recommendation of the Library Commission, Roseburg Public Library is adding digital magazines to the collection.

We expect to launch this service in early July, which gives patrons plenty of time to learn about the product and get their electronic devices ready.

Folks who currently access electronic books and audiobooks using the Libby app on a mobile device or Library2Go on their computers are set to get magazines when our service goes live.

Patrons new to digital library materials will have the most flexibility if they download Libby to a tablet or smartphone. The app provides one-tap reading of magazine issues, which can be downloaded for offline use; supports subscribing to titles so new issues appear automatically on a “magazine rack”; and offers a “Newsstand” feature for easier browsing.

Magazines also will be available using a computer through library2go.overdrive.com. There won't be as many bells and whistles using that platform, but I'm guessing some users won't mind because they prefer the larger screen.

Patrons will be able to subscribe to as many magazines as they wish at one time, and all publications will be available immediately. That's right – no holds!

We recently surveyed community members about providing this service and shared the results with the Library Commission.

There was a marked difference between respondents completing the online survey, who expressed great interest in digital magazines, vs. those completing the in-person survey, who were more reluctant to shift spending from print materials to accommodate the new service.

Overall, when asked whether they would check out digital magazines, 42 percent of 97 respondents indicated yes, 31 percent no and 26 percent maybe.

When asked whether they want the library to move forward with using operating funds to purchase an annual subscription for digital magazines and purchase fewer books, 56.5 percent of 83 respondents indicated no and 43.5 percent yes.

I reported to the Library Commission that Youth Services Librarian Aurora Ropp and I agree this change would not negatively affect the physical collection we have been developing for five years.

In the end, Library Commission members unanimously recommended adding digital magazines because it's another service the library is able to provide and it fills a gap for magazine readers whose longtime favorite publications no longer are available in print.

Stay tuned for more information about digital magazines.

The library will continue to provide magazines in print format. At this time, we subscribe to 25 titles, all of which can be checked out with a Roseburg Public Library card.

Also note, the Friends of the Roseburg Public Library curate a free magazine exchange that consists of donations of titles published primarily in the past three years.

The Friends accept donations of print magazines published in the past three years during library hours. Drop them off at the front desk. Anything older than that may be recycled for free between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday at Sisters Shredding located at 193 NE Exchange Dr. in Roseburg.

Youth Programming Break

The spring schedule of children's and teen programs will conclude this month. Library staff will spend the month of May preparing for the Summer Reading Program, which begins June 1.

Visit the library's website at www.roseburgpubliclibrary.org, call 541-492-7050 or email library@cityofroseburg.org for more information.

This Week's Library Events

Tuesday, April 23, 4 p.m. – Resume workshop (register at library@cityofroseburg.org)

Wednesday, April 24, 4-4:45 p.m. – Club de Idioma Español | Spanish Club for 2nd through 8th graders

Wednesday, April 24, 6:30 p.m. – Peregrine falcons presented by Bob Sallinger, Bird Conservation Oregon