

Consider Becoming a Hybrid Reader Kris Wiley for The News-Review

Roseburg Public Library's combination of digital and physical books provides tens of thousands of titles for patrons' reading pleasure.

To maximize your options, I suggest becoming a hybrid reader, one who shifts seamlessly between electronic and print books.

Since I embraced a variety of formats, I always find a hot, new title available for checkout with no or a short wait time.

Statistics show I am not alone.

Roseburg's physical materials account for about 70% and digital materials 30% of all checkouts.

However, the numbers change significantly when we look at checkouts by age group. Adults are far more likely to be hybrid readers. At Roseburg, materials for adults account for 40% of physical and 80% of digital circulation.

Becoming a hybrid reader is a relatively simple process.

For example, Ruth Ware's latest thriller, "One Perfect Couple," was published May 21. The library has one physical copy of the book, and there are three holds on it.

The library also has licensed digital copies of the title on cloudLibrary. There is an electronic book with two holds and an electronic audiobook with four holds.

The other digital platform, Libby, has only one hold each on the ebook and eaudiobook. It's important to note that because of the lower demand from our patrons for this title on this platform, I have not licensed local copies, meaning this option actually has the longest wait time for Roseburg cardholders.

If I wanted to read "One Perfect Couple," I would place a hold on the physical copy as well as all of the digital copies. Based on my experience, I would expect the digital book or audiobook from cloudLibrary to be the first one available.

The process runs most smoothly when patrons remove holds on items they no longer want, but that is not required. Each platform has a queue that times out if a hold is not checked out, and the item moves along to the next patron.

Not only have I become a reader of digital and physical books, I also read and listen to the same book.

I'm doing that with "The Truth About the Devlins," Lisa Scottoline's standalone thriller that hit shelves March 26.

The cloudLibrary audiobook was available immediately, so I started listening to it. At the same time, I placed a hold on the ebook, and it became available for checkout about five days later. Now I am listening in the car and reading on my phone, and I'll be done with the book in no time.

Want to know more about our digital platforms? Library staff is available to help set up tablets and smartphones to access Libby and cloudLibrary. I would appreciate patrons making an appointment by emailing library@cityofroseburg.org or calling 541-492-7050. It takes 15 to 30 minutes to get started.

This Week's Library Events

Monday, June 17-Saturday, June 22, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. - StoryWalk® at Stewart Park by YMCA

Tuesday, June 18, 10 a.m. – Grab-and-go craft kits while supplies last

Tuesday, June 18, 19, 20 – Anime Your Way drawing workshop for ages 9 and up (registration required at www.roseburgpubliclibrary.org)

Wednesday, June 19, 10:30 a.m. – Storytime at Stewart Park Pavilion

Thursday, June 20, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime at library

Thursday, June 20, 1-2:30 p.m. – Teen volunteer hours

Friday, June 21, 10:30-11:30 a.m. – Children's program at Stewart Park Pavilion: make a nature journal