

REDISCOVER YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

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When I made the decision to relocate to the area four years ago, a major factor was the excellence of the Salem Public Library. I moved from a big city where I relied heavily on my local library for both personal and professional resources. Working in the field of literacy, I knew moving to a smaller town meant I'd depend on my local library even more. And I have fallen in love with our local library.

The Salem Public Library is a wonderful place to spend an entire afternoon and it's completely parent and child friendly. Their numerous innovative events and interactive Discovery Room (upstairs, in the Children's area) ensure there's never a dull moment. The many programs they offer involve children in many types of experiences that enhance their relationships with the world around them and stimulate learning. The Salem Public Library staff members are friendly, cheerful, and always ready to assist. The librarians go above and beyond to help you find what you need. Pay them a visit next time you're in - even if just to say hello and thank them for being there; they are an invaluable resource.

As technology has advanced, the Salem Public Library has kept up and offers something for every age level. Visit their home page; you'll be astounded at all you can do.

One 21st century feature I've recently discovered is their Library2Go (Oregon Digital Library Consortium) service. This service allows users to download digital audio books from home or laptop. The audio books can then be played on your computer, MP3 player, iPod or, in some cases, burned to CDs.

The service is remarkable. The collection is organized in an easy-to-use format. A quick download of the OverDrive Media Console and you're ready to check out titles (up to six at a time) for 7 or 14 days. At the end of this time, the audio book (there's video, too) "disappears" from your computer and returns itself. Very convenient!

The collection is impressive. Adult users will find everything from classics to recent best-sellers (*The World is Flat, The Tipping Point, The Omnivore's Dilemma*). There are titles for children (*Berenstain Bears' Stories, The 101 Dalmatians, Aesop's Fables*) and young adults (*The Astonishing Adventures of Fan Boy and Goth Girl, Twilight, Jinx*). There are titles in Spanish as well.

Adults can use this resource to help with their job-related goals (*The 250 Job Interview Questions You'll Most Likely Be Asked... And the Answers That Will Get You Hired!*), perfect their Downward Dog (*Easy Yoga - video*) or simply laugh out loud (*The 7 Habits of Highly Defective People – And Other Bestsellers That Won't Go Away: A Parody*).

Library cards are free for residents of Salem, \$60 for those outside the city limits and \$85 for those who live both outside the City of Salem and the Chemeketa Cooperative Regional Library Service (17 member libraries as well as Chemeketa College) area. Both fees cover everyone who resides at your address. Children living in Yamhill, Polk, Marion and parts of Linn County who are 14 or younger can secure a free card through the C.A.R.E. (Create A Reader Everyday) program.

Log on to www.cityofsalem.net/departments/library to find out about all the upcoming events at the library for all age groups. The Library2Go service is located at the bottom of the main page. Peruse the selection and involve your children in selecting a few titles which appeal. After all, children are naturals when it comes to technology. As summer draws to a close, this is a perfect time to rediscover our local library.