

Libraries expand virtual services during pandemic

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COVID-19 has hit everyone hard. We may never suffer from the virus itself, but we are all impacted by it. As a library, we are carefully monitoring news from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Washington-Ozaukee Public Health Department. I imagine the world will look different when you read this than it does as I write this. The Frank L. Weyenberg Library of Mequon-Thiensville is open for business, but we really don't know how we will be operating a month from now.

We require masks for anyone entering the building, and we encourage social distancing by spreading out seating, separating public access computers, and removing toys, iPads, and puzzles from the library. If you are not comfortable entering the building, we offer curbside pickup Monday through Friday, so you can request items and have them checked out to you for contactless pickup at your convenience.

We go further than that, however. The library offers hosts of services available to you from the safety of your own home, with just a few clicks of a mouse. Start with www.flwlib.org. We have expanded digital resources for all library card holders, and have made it even easier to get cards.

Do you visit the library to browse our collections, be they new books or old, audiobooks or graphic novels, large print or children's books, movies or music, and magazines, too. Similar collections are online via three free easy-to-access apps. Frank L. Weyenberg Library cardholders have access to electronic, downloadable versions, of all of the above. To make your life even easier, download three free apps onto your Apple or Android device. *Libby* offer ebooks and audiobooks. *RB Digital* offers magazines and audiobooks. *Hoopla* offers ebooks, audiobooks, graphic novels, movies, television series, and music. Since the pandemic began, the collections and access to all of these services has been expanded for your convenience.

Want to use this time to learn a new skill? The library offers a variety of services for your education and elucidation. Check out more than 350 six-week courses offered Gale Courses. They even offer language study. Want more languages? Log onto Rosetta Stone or Transparent Languages. Time to climb your family tree, Ancestry.com Library Edition is now accessible from home. Want to repair your car, click on BadgerLink then Auto Repair Source. There really is something for everyone at www.flwlib.org.

Miss our programming? Check out our YouTube channel at www.tinyurl.com/flwlib. There you will find storytimes, iCan! technology programs, our Slice and Share Cooking Club, and more. Miss talking books? Email ref@flwlib.org for your Zoom invitation to our monthly Mequon-Thiensville Community Book Club. It's the third Tuesday of each month at 1:30pm.

Your Frank L. Weyenberg Library strives to provide the services you want and need in whatever form is available to us. The pandemic may be changing library services, but it's not stopping them. Visit our website at www.flwlib.org and like us on Facebook to keep up with our latest services. I think you will be pleased.

And if you feel comfortable doing so, please visit us. We look forward to seeing you at your Frank L. Weyenberg Public Library!