

“iPoints” An Overview of the iPad Project

iPads are now available for check out from the library thanks to a generous grant from the Presto Foundation.

The library has iPads available for checkout for periods of two weeks; iPads available to use in-house for 4 hours at a time on a first-come, first-served basis.

Current library cardholders in good standing may borrow an iPad. “Current” is defined as having a library card for a minimum of 30 days. “Good standing” is defined as a library card account and any custodial children/guardians’ accounts having fines and fees of less than \$10.00. The cardholder must present his or her library card and a photo ID in order to check out an iPad.

The cardholder must be 18 years of age or older to check out an iPad.

Only one iPad per household may be checked out at any given time.

Each iPad Air is Wi-Fi compatible and pre-loaded with 20 e-book titles, 4 audiobooks and dozens of free apps and shortcuts to websites.

Customers may reserve an iPad from the library by placing a hold request through the MORE catalog or by contacting Information and Reference at the library.

The goal of the program is to provide library customers with opportunities to gain familiarity and comfort with new technology that allows them to make use of alternative methods of enjoying the written and spoken word and to more fully explore the Internet and its vast resources.

While there are many devices competing for the attention of the library customer, no single device can fulfill every need. The iPad was chosen for this project because of its place as a tablet computer marketplace leader and its flexibility in providing more access to library-related content than an e-reader-only device. The iPad was also chosen because it offers media in a variety of formats: screen magnification provides the user with the option of reading books in standard, large or giant-sized print – ideal for people with aging eyes; its superior sound system ensures excellent sound quality for listening to audiobooks; and it has a VoiceOver feature which when activated actually reads the material displayed on the screen at the user's selected pace.

The accessibility features of the iPads were also important to the goals of the program, the library and the Foundation. In addition to the iPads, the Presto Foundation also provided funds in the grant allowing the library to purchase a desktop “video” magnifier so that members of the public with low vision may more easily read or write while at the library.

Promoting a culture of reading in all its forms is a primary goal of this library. The library is also an integral part of the mobile technology, e-reading and social media revolutions that our customers are experiencing. Because of this, this library and all libraries continue to embrace change and to experiment. This library's book collection was first augmented by audiobooks, initially on cassette and later on compact discs. Today, it provides e- books and downloadable audiobooks as well. Its information and referral services, once reliant on print materials and microfilm, have been enhanced by online databases and Internet resources. A vibrant 16mm film collection led to the first videos lent anywhere in the community and then to DVDs as important facets of library service. Phonograph records were followed by music cassettes and compact discs, and the library now also offers music downloads. Helping customers use and enjoy iPads is just the latest adventure for the library and its staff in making information and media available and accessible to all in the community.

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