LIBBY HACKS
For ebooks and eaudios

Get the Most Out of Libby

In the last half of March, since we all started social distancing, 500 more ebooks on Libby were checked out than the average check-outs of all previous months! We are so glad that y'all are all taking advantage of this awesome resource!

At the same time, we know Libby can sometimes be frustrating, so we’ve come up with these “hacks” or tips to help you get the most out of Libby.

Hack #1: Suggest a Title
Submit a purchase request for your title when the book you want isn’t available in the digital collection. To suggest a title, just go to cityofbastrop.org/page/lib.services.suggest and check one of the two OverDrive options.

Hack #2: Put It on Hold
Make sure you place yourself on hold for an item you want. Bastrop Public Library is one library in our OverDrive consortium. There are LOTS of people that have access to the same copies of the ebooks/ eaudiobooks as you. BUT, if you place a hold on an item, that tells the consortium administrator that people want to read/listen to that title. Hopefully, administrators will then use consortium money (which Bastrop Public Library contributes to) to purchase more copies of the title. And YOU get to read/listen to it!

Hack #3: Filter to “Available”
Want to read something right now? You can refine more by clicking on “Preferences” AND “Refine.” The + with a partial circle around it means it’s available for check-out right now!

SERVICES WHILE SOCIAL DISTANCING

Reference via phone at (512) 332-8880 during regular library hours

eBooks via Libby/OverDrive, SimplyE, and Tumblebooks.
View tutorials on how to access at bit.ly/2RGkAaf

Online programs for all ages

eResources for education and fun at bit.ly/2Kbmewk

Online library card applications
Go to bit.ly/3ejoFYR and click in the “card number” box and choose “Sign up for an account right now!”

Social media interactions on Facebook and Instagram
Virtual and Online Programs

We miss you all so much, and I’m sure some of y’all miss us, too! But that can be alleviated slightly by participating in online programs, and we have something for all ages:

FOR KIDS:

Virtual Storytime live on our Facebook page
- Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:30 a.m.
- Listen to a picture book read by Ms. Carmen or Ms. Bonnie followed by an activity you can do with supplies you have at home or a link to a virtual field trip.

Brain Breaks on our Facebook page
- Mondays through Fridays at 1:00 p.m.
- Get a break from online school with a challenge, craft, simple science project, or other fun activity— all using supplies you have at home.
- For elementary-aged kids and tweens

FOR TEENS (13-17 year olds):

Jackbox Games on Discord
- Thursdays from 4:45-6:15 p.m.
- Play interactive games with Bethany and other teens! All you need is a smartdevice and a Discord profile.
- To join the fun: Get a Discord invite by emailing Bethany at bdietrich@bastroplibrary.org or sending her a PM on the @BastropLibraryTeens Instagram.

FOR ADULTS:

Going the Distance Book Club on our Facebook page
- Thursdays from 7:00-8:00 p.m.
- Come and chat with Becca and Bethany about whatever you’re reading while social distancing. We want to know how you’re spending this excellent time to catch up on your to-be-read list!

Director’s Book Club via Zoom
- Third Thursdays from 2:00-3:00 p.m.
- Join Becca in rousing discussions of a new book each month. We’re moving DBC online with Zoom. You can find the link in the Facebook event.

Coffee with Catherine and Cary via Zoom
- Fridays from 10:00-11:00 a.m.
- Beat social distancing disconnection by joining the conversation! Come chat with Catherine and Cary! We'll post the Zoom link on our Facebook before it begins.

Library Closings

- Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day

What have staff been up to while the library isn't open as usual?

- Planning, filming, and editing virtual programs (We do 10 programs a week!)
- Creating online content for social media
- Curating online resources
- Updating our card catalog and patron database
- Filming tutorials on how to use our online resources
- Attending webinars to improve how we serve the public and do our jobs
- Answering the phones and providing reference services
- Making fines payable online so that patrons can renew their library cards to access digital resources and ebooks
- Instituting online library card applications for new patrons
- And more!
We’re expanding who is writing newsletter reviews so that we can get a variety of genre suggestions for all types of readers! If you’ve read a book and want to write a positive review for the newsletter, please email Bethany at bdietrich@bastroplibrary.org.

Becky Bennett, Library Board member:
The Night Tiger by Yangsze Choo
Ji Lin is a dressmaker’s apprentice in colonial Malaya who comes to possess a mysterious object that is said to bring good luck. Ren is a ten-year-old houseboy on a mission to recover the item and return it to its owner, his recently deceased employer. An example of magical realism, this novel has multiple complex plotlines, ghosts, mythical man-eating beasts, and mysterious deaths. Ji Lin’s intelligence and bravery will inspire readers while Ren’s loyalty and resilience will melt readers’ hearts.
Find it: Libby ebooks

Brenda Smith, volunteer:
The Wives by Tarryn Fisher
This psychological thriller asks you to believe the unreliable narrator as she sets out to find the truth about her husband’s other two wives. Your twisty roller coaster ride ends in disbelief as you won’t see the conclusion coming right at you. I read this book in two days it was so enthralling!
Find it: MYS Fis + Libby ebooks

Becca Sexton, library director
The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson
When Candice Miller leaves her hometown of Atlanta to spend the summer with her mom in her late grandmother’s South Carolina home, she expects a pretty boring summer apart from her home, her friends, and her dad. Then she discovers a letter in her grandmother’s attic that sets her off on a puzzle-solving adventure to learn more about Lambert’s past and just maybe change its future. Great for fans of Ellen Raskin’s The Westing Game!
Find it: JF Joh + Libby ebooks

Bethany Dietrich, staff:
Sorcery of Thorns by Margaret Rogerson
Elisabeth, an orphan, was raised in one of the Great Libraries of the realm, where grimoires (magical books that hold forbidden knowledge about sorcery) live. When one grimoire becomes a Malefict, a monster-like menace, Elisabeth must ally with Magister Nathaniel to save the kingdom. I was wary about this book because it had received so much praise, but it was 100% worthy of the buzz! It is truly a unique story, and I rarely predicted what was going to happen-- which doesn't happen too often!
Find it: YA Rog (New) + Libby ebooks