

WHY YOU NEED A LIBRARY CARD AND MAYBE MORE THAN ONE

by Natalie McLain

Why Do You Need A Library Card?

- Check out books, eBooks, audiobooks, magazines and videos
- Access a variety of databases in the library and at home
- Check out books by interlibrary loan
- Access microfilm by interlibrary loan
- Download library apps on mobile devices

You can apply for a library card in person at your local public library. You can also apply for a library card at some (but not all) libraries around the state if you are a resident of Texas and the card is free. However, some libraries charge a fee.

When you travel to another city in Texas, look at that city's or county's library webpage. See if their library card is free and see if there is something that you can use from their website with their library card. When you visit that town, stop by the local library and apply for a card. It usually takes less than 5 minutes to acquire one.

Houston Public Library

<http://houstonlibrary.org/>

Montgomery County Memorial Library System Website's Home Pages

<https://countylibrary.org/>

Harris County Public Library

<https://www.hcpl.net/homepage>

Sterling Municipal Library

<https://baytown.org/206/Library>

Round Rock Public Library

<https://www.roundrocktexas.gov/departments/library/>

There are many library apps for digital media. Some of the most popular are Overdrive, Libby, Hoopla and Flipster. Different libraries can have different content for their apps.

Houston Public Library App Information

<https://houstonlibrary.org/download-stream>

Montgomery County Library App Information

<https://countylibrary.org/mobileapp.htm>

Harris County Public Library App Information

<https://www.hcpl.net/services/digital-media>

Sterling Municipal Library Overdrive/Libby Information

<https://baytown.org/216/eBooks>

Round Rock Public Library App Information

<https://www.roundrocktexas.gov/city-departments/library-home/books-services/ebooks-eaudiobooks-more/>

Digital Media Websites

To register for an account: <https://www.overdrive.com/account/sign-up>

Sign Up Using Library Card>Enter Library Name or Location>Go>Enter Library, Library Card Number & Pin Number> Sign In

<https://www.hoopladigital.com/>

Home>Get Started Today>Fill In Information>Agree>Settings (Cog icon in upper right of page)>Library> Search for Library name>>Click on Library Location>Fill in Library Card Number>Save

If the directions above are confusing, go to this link for Montgomery County

<https://countylibrary.org/mobileapp.htm>

Click on eBooks then Get Started under Overdrive or Hoopla for instructions.

Download corresponding apps to your Apple, android or Kindle device. You can register for accounts on either your computer or device.

Houston Public Library Genealogy Databases

<https://houstonlibrary.org/genealogy>

Houston Public Library Newspaper Databases

<https://houstonlibrary.org/newspapers>

Houston Public Library Research Link to All Databases

<https://houstonlibrary.org/all-databases-search>

Montgomery County Library Genealogy Databases

<https://countylibrary.org/genealogy-databases.htm>

Montgomery County Library Research Databases

<https://countylibrary.org/databases.htm>

Montgomery County Library Interlibrary Loan Information

<https://countylibrary.org/ill.htm>

Sterling Municipal Library Local History & Genealogy Databases

<https://baytown.org/232/Local-History>

Sterling Municipal Library Interlibrary Loan Information

<https://baytown.org/222/Interlibrary-Loan>

Rosenberg Library - All Online Databases – Topical Index

(Genealogy databases are listed under History Tab. Newspaper Archive is under Articles Tab)

<https://rosenberg-library.org/catalog/e-library/online-databases/topical-index/>

Round Rock Public Library Genealogy & Local History

<https://www.roundrocktexas.gov/departments/library/research/genealogy-local-history/>

Ancestry.com Texas Account Information

<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/arc/ancestry>

Clayton Microprint Collection

<https://clayton.houstonlibrary.org/microprint>

Clayton Periodical Collection

<https://clayton.houstonlibrary.org/periodicals>

WorldCat

<https://www.worldcat.org/>

Chrome Web Store – Extensions

<https://chrome.google.com/webstore/category/extensions>

Use above link to get Library Extension, Goodreads Right Click & Available Reads

Library Extension Instructions

<https://www.libraryextension.com/>

Most of the above tools and links can work for any type of subjects not just genealogy. Having access to many digital libraries gives you a wider access to books. I like series books. One library may only have the earlier books in the series while another one has the later. Look at the catalogs and use them to your advantage. Keep a text file of your library card and pin numbers. Start exploring new libraries around the state and their websites or call them. When you plan to travel to another city or town, visit that library or those on the way to your destination. Stop by the library if they give a card to Texas residents. Every time you get a new library card, add it to your text file and when you need to log in at different libraries, copy and paste the library card number you need.

Finally, if you have any questions about databases, interlibrary loan, etc. **Ask Your Librarian**, they are there to help.