



Arkansas State Library

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

News Release

STATE LIBRARY CREATES ARKANSAS DIGITAL LIBRARY CONSORTIUM

Patrons of 22 public libraries have a powerful new tool to gain access to e-books and audiobooks, thanks to the Arkansas State Library.

The Arkansas Digital Library Consortium is a collaboration between 22 public libraries and library systems to share e-books and audiobooks through the digital content platform, Overdrive. The consortium was established by the Arkansas State Library.

“Member libraries will pool a portion of the money they usually spend on digital books to create a large, shared library of digital books,” said Katie Jones, acquisitions manager.

Patrons will have access to a larger number of books than their individual library would be able to afford alone.

“For example, a small rural library that might only have a budget of \$2,000 for e-books will now have access to more than \$125,000 worth of e-books by being a member of the consortium.”

The ADLC will focus on current bestsellers and other popular titles that appeal to a wide audience. Individual libraries can still choose to buy additional titles for their patrons.

“Beyond the cost-saving benefits of more free e-books and audiobooks for patrons, collaboration among librarians will allow them to tap into the shared expertise of their colleagues,” Jones added.

Library staff members will save time by sharing the workload of selecting and purchasing books and streamlining process that would have normally been performed by each individual library.

“Other states that have implemented state-wide e-book consortia have been wildly successful, and we are confident that it will be just as fruitful here in Arkansas,” she said.

Participating libraries include Ash Flat Library, Ashley County Library, Calhoun County Library, Clark County Library, Columbia County Library, Conway County Library, Crittenden County Library, Crossett Public Library, East Central Arkansas Regional Library, Faulkner - Van Buren Regional Library System, Forrest City Public Library, Independence County Library, Jackson County Library, Lawrence County Library, Lonoke County Library, Mississippi County Library, Pea Ridge Community Library, Saline County Library, Southeast Arkansas Regional Library, West Memphis Public Library, White County Regional Library System and William F. Laman Public Library.

The Arkansas State Library provides the resources, services, and leadership necessary to meet the educational, informational and cultural needs of the citizens of Arkansas. The Library also provides guidance and support for the development of local public libraries and library services. Visit the library online at www.library.arkansas.gov.

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