



How to...



SMART IDEA

In 1873, Melvil Dewey created the Dewey Decimal System to organize books by topic and numbers. Most libraries still use it today.

Explore your local library

You might be amazed by what you can find in your community.

Libraries are some of the most magical places on Earth. They provide a wealth of knowledge, offer an escape into other worlds, and create opportunities for everyone. If you are new to using libraries, or even if you use the library regularly, you might be surprised to learn how much—beyond supplying amazing books—they can do for you. Here's how to get started.

Get a library card

To take out anything from your local library, you first need a library card, which gives you borrowing privileges to check out books and other items. (Some libraries offer cards in different designs.) The library will have rules about how many items you can borrow and for how long. When it's time to return them, you can bring them back or you may be able to renew them to keep them a little longer. Most libraries have a website to conveniently renew borrowed items online to avoid being charged late fees. At the same time, many libraries are doing away with fines for overdue items. You can visit your local library to apply for a card and ask the librarian about the rules.

Tap librarians' knowledge

If you're stuck trying to find a book and can't remember the exact title or the name of the author, a librarian can likely help you find what you're

looking for. Librarians can also make great suggestions. Tell them what books you have enjoyed—and the ones you haven't—as well as the subjects that interest and inspire you, and they'll be able to recommend your next read. Librarians can also help you do research for a school project or paper by showing you how to do an internet search and find reliable sources of accurate information.

Go beyond books

Libraries are best known for their vast book collections, but they offer even more. You or an adult in your family can also stream movies and TV shows with the help of library apps like Hoopla and Kanopy. Some libraries also lend musical instruments and sheet music. There are computers and quiet zones where you can study with few distractions. You may also find free or discounted printing and photocopying services.

Enjoy scheduled events

Many libraries host free events for young people. You can ask a librarian or check the library's website for a list or calendar of upcoming activities and sign up with your card. These can include tween and teen book clubs, gaming clubs, art workshops, and fun classes like chess, crafting, and coding.



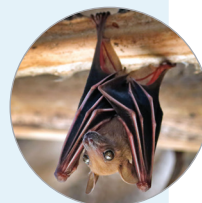
Pick your next favorite book.

4 fun features of libraries worldwide

Check out the surprising things—besides great books—these libraries are famous for.

Bats

The Joanina Library at the University of Coimbra in Portugal is filled with live bats. The bats are welcome to hang—they eat bugs that could damage the library's books.



Karaoke

It must be seen as the ultimate study break! The Tikkurila

Library in Vantaa, Finland, has a soundproof karaoke room with thousands of songs.

Fishing gear

Lots of libraries in New York, including the Honeoye Public Library in Rochester, loan out fishing poles and tackle boxes to beginner anglers.



Dividing line

The Haskell Free Library and Opera House has a thick black line running

down the middle that separates Quebec, Canada, from Vermont. A visitor can stand with a foot on each side of the line and read a book in two countries at the same time.

