

CIRCULATION POLICY

UPDATED 02/10/2022

I. PATRON REGISTRATION

Application Process

- Applicants must complete the card application and provide valid photo identification and proof of current address. A list of acceptable forms of identification is available in the LINK Circulation Manual.
- Applicants 15 and under must have a parent or legal guardian's signature on the application. Guardian must be present except in the event of school or daycare visit.
- Young adults (age 16-17) without valid photo identification and proof of current address require a parent or legal guardian's identification and signature.
- Adults formerly registered as juveniles must complete a new card application.
- Address changes must be documented with a card application and photo ID.
- Application for an Online Access Card may be completed on the library website.

South Central Library System (SCLS) Residents

- Residents that reside in a community with a SCLS library may be issued a card at the Reedsburg Library. A copy of the application form will be forwarded to the home Library.
- Registrants will be issued a Reedsburg Library Card; Rural residents of Sauk County may choose a Sauk County card in lieu of a Reedsburg card.

Non-SCLS Residents / Reciprocal Borrowers

- Applicants who live in a Wisconsin library system with a reciprocal borrowing agreement with SCLS may apply for a library card. Applicant must present a valid photo ID and proof of current address. An SCLS barcode will be added to the patron's existing card, if present, or a Reedsburg Library Card may be issued. Applicants are encouraged to register for a card at their home county library.
- Applicants from systems without a reciprocal borrowing agreement with SCLS are not eligible for borrowing privileges. In Wisconsin, this is limited to residents of Milwaukee County.

Special Patron Types

- Seasonal workers, students and other temporary residents are eligible for a library card. Applicants must show a valid photo ID and proof of current local address. If a temporary resident is staying with relatives in the area, it will be suggested that the relative register for a card and allow his/her guest to use it.
- Limited Use registration will be applied to temporary patrons staying at a given address for less than 120 days. This card-type restricts the users to a

- three-item checkout limit and can be changed to a regular card-type once proof of permanent address is provided.
- Adults 65 and over may register for senior status in which no overdue fines are charged. Notice mailings, damage, repair and replacement fees are billed at the same rate as for other card-holders.
 - Homebound patrons may register by mail using a copy of photo identification. The Library offers a Books-By-Mail program as well as Home Delivery for eligible individuals. Damage, repair and replacement fees are billed at the same rate as for other card-holders.
 - Teacher Cards: Classroom teachers are eligible for a teacher card. The cards are valid from August 15 through June 15 and must be renewed with a new application, signed by the teacher and school principal or administrator each school year. Teacher cards are eligible for fine-free status. While fines are not charged, normal loan and renewal periods apply and the institution is financially responsible for lost or damaged items checked out by authorized individuals using the card. A card with multiple lost or damaged charges will be blocked from use until payment is made. Teacher cards are intended for classroom use only. If personal use or abuse of fine-free status is suspected, borrowing privileges may be suspended.
 - Institutional Cards: Daycares, schools, nursing homes and other local organizations may be eligible for institutional registration. Institutional registration requires a completed card application as well as an authorization letter on official stationery outlining the type of use expected and naming all authorized users. Institutional cards will expire 2 years from registration date. For cards kept at the Library, users will be asked to verify name and may be required to show ID for check out or for information about the registration or materials on the account. Institutional cards may be eligible for fine-free status. Normal loan and renewal periods apply. Overdue fees will not be charged, however the institution is financially responsible for lost or damaged items checked out by authorized individuals using the card. A card with multiple lost or damaged charges will be blocked from use until payment is made. If personal use or abuse of fine-free status is suspected, borrowing privileges may be suspended.
 - Online Access Cards: Online access cards are issued for up to 6 months for patrons in our service area wishing to use our online resources. Some resources are provided only to individuals residing in the 7-county library system (Adams, Columbia, Dane, Green, Portage, Sauk and Wood Counties). Must provide a valid photo ID to claim physical card; a completed library card application, photo ID and proof of address are required to upgrade Online Access Card to a standard library card for borrowing of materials.

Child Custody

- The library patron database permits just one library account per person.
- If shared custody or a change in guardianship impacts a child's registration, the situation will be referred to the parents to work out, through legal means, if necessary.
- Parents may choose to use their own card for their children's materials if a custody issue is a concern.
- Parents may be asked to present the card or reasonable proof of guardianship to receive or change information in a child's record.

Card Updates and Replacement

- Automatic address update requests occur at regular intervals. Staff will ask the patron to state current address, phone, birthdate and file the record. ID and proof of address may be requested for confirmation.
- New cards are issued at a charge of \$1.00 if card is lost or damaged.
- Free replacement is permitted if a patron has moved. A completed card application is required.

Special Rules and Circumstances

Registration scenarios not addressed above or provided for within the LINK Circulation Manual will be at the discretion of the Library Director or appointee.

II. CIRCULATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

Necessity for Library Card

- Persons wishing to check out materials must have their library card, a valid photo ID, or present their barcode in the official LINKcat app.
- Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the staff member at the desk. If an exception is warranted the staff member must see I.D. or personally know the patron.

Use of Library Card By Other Than the Registered User

- Library staff will consider physical possession of the library card to convey authorization to use the card for circulation of library materials unless the card has been reported to the Library as lost or stolen.
- Permission to use another's card is not intended as a means to avoid payment of fines or other charges on another account. If abuse is suspected, use of the account in question may be restricted to the registered borrower, to age-appropriate materials and/or limited use borrowing status.
- Authorization of use does not extend to computer access.

Circulation Periods

- Circulation periods are as follows:
 - 7 Days: DVDs and Blu-ray discs
 - 14 Days: New & Walk-in Books, Music CDs, Kits, Magazines, Play Views and Launchpads
 - 28 Days: Books, Nonfiction DVDs (as marked) and Audio Books

- AV Equipment checked out per AV Equipment Policy
- Other materials such as OLL and digital equipment are checked out as labeled.
- If the due date for an item falls on a holiday or other closed day, the due date shall be the next date that the library is open. Items returned in the overnight book return when the library is closed will be checked in as if returned the previous open date of the library.

Use Restrictions

- A patron must be 18 or over to check out AV equipment listed on the Rental Agreement.
- A patron must be 16 or have parent present to check out Outerlibrary Loan materials from outside SCLS.
- Laptop checkout requires the patron to be 16 or have a parent-signed device permission form on file.

Renewals

- Items may be renewed in person, online or over the telephone.
- Items may be renewed twice. If a special circumstance exists, and the item has no holds, then staff may allow a third renewal.
- The automated system will block renewals of items with holds, items that have already been renewed, or if patron has fines over \$20.00.
- Staff will inform patrons of fines accrued when materials are renewed in person or by telephone.

Hold Shelf

- Items will be held on the hold shelf for a maximum of 8 days.
- Holds not picked up within 8 days will be re-shelved, returned to the owning library or passed on to the next hold as appropriate.
- Materials must be checked out before being removed from the library.
- The open hold shelves are intended to provide increased accessibility to patrons who wish to pick up their own holds.
- Library staff will make reasonable efforts to accommodate patrons who request that their materials not be placed on the open hold shelves.

Interlibrary Loan

- As a member of the South Central Library System, patrons may borrow available materials from other libraries within the system.
- Patrons may place holds online by using LINKcat.
- Upon request staff will place holds for the patron in person or by phone.
- Items not available within SCLS may be available from other library systems. OLL request forms are available at the circulation desk. Library staff will search for and place holds as necessary.
- An automated system notifies patrons when materials are available.
- SCLS delivery stops at the library Monday-Friday except for holidays and bad weather.

Circulation of Materials from Library Archives Off-Site

- The Library maintains a special collection of archival materials in the Carnegie Building at 345 Vine St.
- Select materials may be utilized in the Library by advance request as outlined in the Archives and Local History Policy.
- This collection is not accessible to the general public however access by appointment may be granted upon advance request to the Director or during scheduled Archive hours.

Overdue Library Material

- Fines & Fees
 - LINKcat records and displays each fine incurred by the patron. The staff or self-check machine will inform the patron of current fines on their record at checkout and encourage payment.
 - When the patron has reached \$20.00 in fines or fees, check-out privileges are suspended.
 - Fines accrue based on the rules of the checkout library.
 - Materials checked out at the Reedsburg Public Library are fine-free except as follows:
 - Fines for walk-in books and DVDs are \$. 30 per day.
 - The AV Equipment Policy governs fines for equipment.
 - Maximum fine amount for rental books and DVDs, outer-library-loan materials, and software is \$5.00 per item, per occurrence.
 - Maximum fine amount for AV Equipment or Reference loans is \$25.00 per item, per occurrence.
 - Maximum fine amount for other materials not mentioned here is \$3.00 per item, per occurrence.
 - A \$1.00 charge is added to the patron's record each time a notice is mailed. This charge is in addition to fines accrued on the item(s).
 - A \$7.00 charge is added to the patron's record if a theft notification letter is mailed. Theft notice will be sent via certified mail.
 - Damaged charges may include repair or replacement cost as well as charges for the processing or re-processing of the item(s).

Payments

- Fines and payments for lost or damaged materials may be paid at any South Central System Library, by mail or online via LINKcat.
- Payment for lost item(s) must be made to the owning library or libraries.
- Payment of fines is not required until fines reach \$20.00.
- Partial payments may be made toward total fines at any time.
- Replacement cost is reimbursement for the item that has been lost or damaged. Replacement of items is determined by staff under the guidance of the Library's Collection Development Policy.

Refunds

- No refund is available for lost items that have been paid for that are subsequently returned.
- For return of materials owned by other libraries, staff will send the item, with the appropriate form showing possible refund to the owning library. The owning library is responsible for any refund that may be due.
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Notification

- Notification for holds may be done by phone, text message or e-mail.
 - Phone and text notifications are sent out the day after the hold becomes available. E-mail notifications are immediate.
- Patrons may opt-in to receive advance notice for items due via e-mail. This may be done at the time of registration, or at the registration desk at any time with library card and proof of ID.
- E-mail notification is available for overdue materials. These E-mail notices are sent directly from the automated system.
 - The first notice is generated at 14 days overdue and states that materials are overdue and should be returned.
 - A second notice is generated when the materials are 26 days past due and shows the replacement value of outstanding materials if items are not returned.
 - If no email address is provided, mail notification will be used for the second overdue notices. These notices are printed and verified at the Library before mailing.
- Library staff will mail a theft notification letter to those patrons who are still delinquent 120 days after the due date. This letter will alert the patron to Wisconsin Statute 943.61 regarding theft of library materials.
 - Cases that involve more than \$100.00 of lost materials on their record may be turned over to the police department for investigation if materials are not returned within 10 days of theft notification.

Special Rules and Circumstances

- Should a patron incur a large debt to the library due to loss of or damage to library materials through circumstances beyond the control of the patron (i.e. house fire, flood, car accident), the patron would still be responsible for the items. It may be possible to provide assistance through a payment plan or other means to allow continued use of the library. Such situations will be handled by the Library Director on a case-by-case basis.
- Situations not addressed by this policy or provided for within the LINK Circulation Manual will be handled at the discretion of the Library Director.

III. CONFIDENTIALITY OF LIBRARY RECORDS

- The Board of trustees of the Reedsburg Public Library recognizes that the reading activity and interests of library users are and should be private and its protected under Wisconsin Statute 43.30 (1) which reads in part:

Public Library records. (1m) Records of any library which is in whole or in part supported by public funds, including the records of a public library system, indicating the identity of any individual who borrows or uses the library's documents or other materials, resources or services may not be disclosed except by court order or to persons acting within the scope of their duties in the administration of the library or library system, to persons authorized by the individual to inspect such records, to custodial parents or guardians of children under the age of 16 under sub.(4), to libraries under subs. (2) and (3), or to law enforcement officers under sub. (5).

The Board interprets this document to include all transactions associated with the use of library materials including interlibrary loan hold shelf, records of reference questions, computer use and other documents or electronic records which would link the individual with particular materials or services.

- Library record inquiries by persons other than the cardholder require permission from the cardholder. Permission requires the library card of the patron inquired about. A hold authorization grants access just to available hold information.
- Disclosure of records to custodial parents or guardians of children under the age of 16 is permitted.
- It is the policy of the Library to contact legal counsel immediately and to resist the issuance or enforcement of any such process, order, or subpoena until such time as a proper showing of good cause has been made in a court of competent jurisdiction. Requests for registration and circulation information by law enforcement officials should be referred to the Director.
- The above Wisconsin Law is overridden by the USA PATRIOT Act. (**U**niting and **S**trengthening **A**merica by **P**roviding **A**ppropriate **T**ools **R**equired to **I**ntercept and **O**bstruct **T**errorism). Among other provisions, the USA PATRIOT Act: 1) authorizes the FBI, or any police department deputized by the FBI, to obtain a search warrant for “any tangible thing” which can include books, records, papers, floppy disks, data tapes and computers with hard drives. It permits the FBI to compel immediate production of records from a library including circulation, borrower registration, and Internet usage records, without probable cause, (but with a search warrant), 2) prohibits a library employee who receives such a request under the law from talking with anyone, except an attorney about the request (search warrant from the Foreign Intelligence Act includes a “gag order”), 3) prohibits notification to a patron that his/her records have been requested, and 4) preempts and overrides all state laws declaring library records to be confidential.
- Though we cannot guarantee complete privacy, the Reedsburg Public Library uses several measures to maintain the privacy of our patrons according to library policies:

- The library does not keep any records relating to patrons that contain personally identifiable information, which are unnecessary to the efficient operation of the library.
- The library keeps records of Internet usage only long enough to get a circulation count.
- The library system will not save online catalog searches
- The system does not maintain individual borrowing history unless the patron elects to opt-in to this service.