

Washington County Library System

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Message From The Director

The Deep Web & Generative AI

Have you used the deep web, or computerized artificial intelligence to generate content? These terms may seem to be filled with some mystery, apprehension, or even dread as we hear them splashed about. Our ears may perk up, or our stomachs churn just a little at the thought of AI and / or the deep web—house of horrors. It may bring to mind images of some type of forbidden fruit that lurks under the surface. As we use Yahoo or Google search engines we may hope to avoid such things. Maybe it would help to define and give some context to these terms as follows:

The deep web, invisible web, or hidden web are parts of the World Wide Web whose contents are not indexed by standard web search-engine programs. This is in contrast to the "surface web", which is accessible to anyone using the Internet. (see, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deep_web)

Generative artificial intelligence (generative AI, GenAI, or GAI) is artificial intelligence capable of generating text, images, videos, or other data using generative models, often in response to prompts. Generative AI models learn the patterns and structure of their input training data and then generate new data that has similar characteristics.

(see, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Generative artificial intelligence)

So now with some terms under our belt, some examples of deep web pages would be your on-line bank, stock broker, or mutual fund accounts. Your email provider who requires a password for access. Premium paid-for access requiring a login or password to access, like databases. "All web pages not indexed by web crawlers are considered to be a part of the deep web. The content is generally more secure and clean than that of the surface web. This is because deep web content is usually well-maintained. Security tools such as firewalls help in this endeavor." (see, https://www.spiceworks.com/itsecurity/security-general/articles/dark-web-vs-deep-web/) While there are bad things on the Internet, some of the best and most expensive content is "hidden" behind passwords and firewalls.

Let me come to the main point of the article: the Washington County Library provides and gives access to some expensive, paid-for content we would like you to use. Some of this deep web content is found under our tab called "eResources" which leads to three options: 1) eBook / Audio Books, 2) Databases, 3) Gale Premium Databases. These can be used for entertainment, education, homework, research, and much more. There is something for everyone: children, teens, and adults. In the Gale tab there are over 50 databases and you can get car repair information, magazines, health information, and so much more. Now to

generative AI, come to the reference desk at the library and we will let you test out two products: we have a trial subscription for Chat GPT and Pictory. I should point out this article was written by me, a human, but in the future who knows—Adventure awaits!

Alan Anderson, Director Washington County Library System



Summer Reading Recap: Adventure Begins at Your Library

This summer, the branches of the Washington County Library System became portals to endless adventures as we hosted our Summer Reading Program themed "Adventure Begins at Your Library." Over the course of eight vibrant weeks, we welcomed an impressive 4,152 participants, including 2,906 children, 641 teens, and 605 adults.



Children dived into fantastical realms and embarked on journeys filled with wonder and discovery. Their excitement was palpable, turning our library branches into havens of exploration and learning. Each book opened new doors, sparking imagination and curiosity that brightened our days.

Teens embraced their own thrilling adventures, venturing into epic quests and futuristic landscapes. The Teen Summer Reading programs were filled with laughter, camaraderie, and spirited competition. It was a joy to see teens connect over their shared love of stories, building friendships along the way.

Adults, too, found their own pathways to adventure. From revisiting beloved classics to exploring new genres, their reading experiences were enriched by programs like craft nights, book clubs, and paint nights. These events helped to bring new stories to life through creativity and craftsmanship, adding a unique and personal touch to our literary journeys.

Throughout the program, we celebrated the joy of reading and the strong sense of community that defines our library. We witnessed families bonding over shared stories, individuals finding inspiration in their books, and a collective enthusiasm that made this summer truly special.

As we close this chapter, we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated, supported, and made this summer an unforgettable journey. The adventure begins at your library, and we are excited to see where it will take us next!

The Library System wants to thank our patrons for making this summer an adventure to remember. We look forward to more exciting journeys @ your Library!

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Ah, August. The dog days of summer are upon us. The sun is relentless, the air is thick, and the neighborhood kids are getting so bored that even the dog looks concerned. But fear not, because the Library has got your back (and your front and your sides) with a brand-new batch of DVDs to help you stay cool, entertained, and sane. And the best part? They're absolutely free with your library card! That's right, no need to break the piggy bank for a ticket to fun-just a simple library card unlocks a treasure trove of cinematic delights. Let's dive into what's hot this August:

MOVIES

- Red Shoes: Next Step
- Unsung Hero
- Book Keepers (documentary) Law & Order Season 24
- Civil War
- Tarot
- Boys in the Boat
- Abigail

TELEVISION

- Code: The Complete Series
- L.A. Law Seasons 1-2
- True Detective Seasons 3-4
- · Thomas and Friends: Go Go Thomas!
- Detainee 001

So, beat the heat, skip the cinema costs, and head to your local Library to check out these fantastic new DVDs. Whether you're in the mood for laughs, thrills, or a bit of learning, we've got something for everyone. Just remember to bring your library card and maybe a cold drink—these dog days just got a lot cooler!

New York Times Best Sellers -Hardcover Fiction and Nonfiction

FICTION:

- 1. The Women by Kristin Hannah
- 2. The Book of Elsewhere by Keanu Reeves and China Mieville
- 3. The Duke and I And the Viscount Who Loved Me by Julia Ouinn
- 4. Fourth Wing
- by Rebecca Yarros
- 5. Swan Sona
- by Elin Hilderbrand
- 6. Iron Flame
- by Rebecca Yarros
- 7. The Spellshop
- by Sarah Beth Durst 8. All The Colors of the Dark
- by Chris Whitaker
- 9. Eruption by Michael Crichton and James Patterson 10. The God of the Woods by Liz Moore

NONFICTION:

- 1. Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance
- 2. The Anxious Generation by Jonathan Haidt
- 3. Autocracy, Inc.
- by Anne Applebaum
- 4. The Demon of Unrest
- by Erik Larson
- 5. The War on Warriors
- by Pete Hegseth
- 6. Outlive by Peter Attia with Bill Gifford
- 7. On Call
- by Anthony S. Fauci
- 8. Ask Not
- by Maureen Callahan
- 9. True Gretch by Gretchen Whitmer with Lisa Dickey
- 10. Nuclear War
- by Annie Jacobsen



The Library System will be closed on Monday, September 2nd in observance of Labor Day

Employee Spotlight

I am pleased to present Jill Nethercott as the July Employee Spotlight.

Jill just passed a big milestone at the library, 25 years of service. Jill works part-time at the St. George Branch, and has been seen a lot of library



change in those years. It is a pleasure to introduce Jill here to you as the Washington County Library System employee spotlight. She loves to suggest her favorite books to the patrons and staff. Some of her favorites include dog stories and historical fiction.

Jill enjoys doing Monday special needs Storytime's with the kids! She loves to sing "I Had a Little Turtle" and reading Karma Wilson's bear books. Jill works hard on her goals, and she wrote a library newsletter article in March on Harriet Tubman, and she currently has a display to peak the kid's interest on historical fiction in the St. George children's area.

Jill is very kind and patient with patrons. She loves sharing her knowledge and love for books with patrons in the children's area of the library. She always has the kids singing and laughing. This year Jill has shared her admiration of inspirational women in history and historical fiction by creating interactive book displays, shelf talkers, and book recommendations, which adds a fun element to the children's area. Jill is always professional and enthusiastic in her interactions with everyone she is around.

- Alan Anderson, Director

Library Programs and Events

Enterprise Branch

Wednesdays - Story Time 10:30 am *Begins Aug. 21 Wednesdays- Youth Activities 3:00 pm *Begins Aug, 21

Hildale Branch

Saturday, August 17 - Anime Club 2:15 pm Saturday, August 24 - Movie Matinee 12:00 pm

Hurricane Branch

Mondays - Thursdays - Story Time 10:30 am
Tuesdays - Dungeons & Dragons 7:00 pm
Wed., - D&D Meet-Up 5:00 pm
Wed., - Dungeons & Dragons 7:00 pm
Thursdays - Dungeons & Dragons 7:00 pm
Thursday, August 1 - Science Club 4:00 pm
Thursday, August 13 - Arts & Crafts Club 4:00 pm
Thursday, August 15 - Reading with Molly 4:00 pm
Monday, August 26 - Zookkeepers Club 1:00 pm

St. George Branch

Mondays - English/Spanish Story Time 11:00 am Mondays- Afternoon Story Time 1:00 pm Weds. -Story Time 10:00, 11:00, 2:00 & 5:00 pm Thursdays - Toddler Time 11:00 am Fridays- Toddler Time 11:00 am Saturdays - Movie Matinee 2:00 pm Thursday, August 1 - Adult Program "30 Day Money Cleanse" 6:30 pm Thursday, August 8 - Adult Program "0ysters in a Cup" 6:00 pm Thursday, August 15 - Teen Time @ the Library 5:00 pm Thursday, August 22 - Introduction to Generative Al 6:00 pm Thursday, August 29 - Rick Miller presentation on Mars 6:00 pm

New Harmony Branch

Mondays - Adult Art Class 1:00 pm Wed., - Story Time 11:00 am Wed., - Sit n' Stitch 1:00 pm Thursdays - Adult Exercise Class 11:15 am

Wednesdays - Preschool Story Time 10:30 & 11:30 am

Santa Clara Branch

Wednesdays - Teens After School 3:00 pm *Begins on Aug. 21st
Thursdays - Toddler Time 10:30 & 11:30 am
Thursdays - Chess Club 4:00 pm
Fridays - Spanish Story Time 10:30 am
Saturdays - Tai Chi 10:30 am
Monday, August 12 - Lego Club
Tuesday, August 13 - Chapter One Book Club 3:30 pm
Thursday, August 15 - P.A.W.S. for Tales 4:00 pm
Friday, August 16 - Root Beer Float Club for Kids 3:00 pm *registration required Tuesday, August 27 - Adult Paint Night 4:00 pm

Springdale Branch

Wednesdays - Story Time 10:30 am
Saturdays - Adult Dungeons & Dragons 2:30 pm
Wednesday, August 14 - Book Club 11:30 am
Thursday, August 8 - Teen/'Tween D&D 5:00 pm
Thursday, August 22 - Adult Craft Night 5:00 pm
Wednesday, August 28 - 'Tween Book Club 4:00 pm

Washington Branch

Tuesdays - Story Time 10:00 & 11:00 am
Wednesdays - Fridays - Story Time 10:30 am
Wednesdays - Teen Programs 4:00 pm
Thursday, August 15 - Book Ends Book Club 4:30 pm
Tuesday, August 20 - Open Music Night 6:00 pm
Tuesday, August 27 - Arts & Craft Club 2:00 pm

Back-to-School Resources at the Library

As the back-to-school season approaches, libraries become invaluable resources for both students and parents. Libraries offer a wealth of benefits that can significantly enhance a child's educational journey, making the transition back to school smoother and more enriching.

Firstly, the Library System provides access to a vast array of books, e-books, and audiobooks that cater to all age groups and reading levels. This extensive collection helps students find the materials they need for school projects, reading assignments, and personal interests. Encouraging regular library visits fosters a love for reading and improves literacy skills, which are crucial for academic success.

Additionally, our libraries offer a range of educational programs and resources designed to support learning. The Washington County Library System offers premium Gale databases where students can access resources featuring age-appropriate content from elementary to collage age levels. These resources are easily access on the library website under "" and clicking on the Gale Premium Database tab.

And the Library branches provides access to technology and digital resources that may not be readily available at home. Computers, internet access, and educational software allow students to research topics, complete assignments, and develop essential digital literacy skills. For families without these resources at home, the library becomes an indispensable tool for ensuring their children are not at a disadvantage.

Libraries also create a community space where families can engage in educational activities together. Storytime sessions, workshops, and special events encourage family bonding and create a positive learning environment.

Your libraries offer a multitude of resources and programs that can greatly benefit students as they head back to school. By utilizing these free and accessible services, parents can support their children's educational growth and set them up for a successful academic year!



