

THE OTTAWA PUBLIC LIBRARY (OPL)

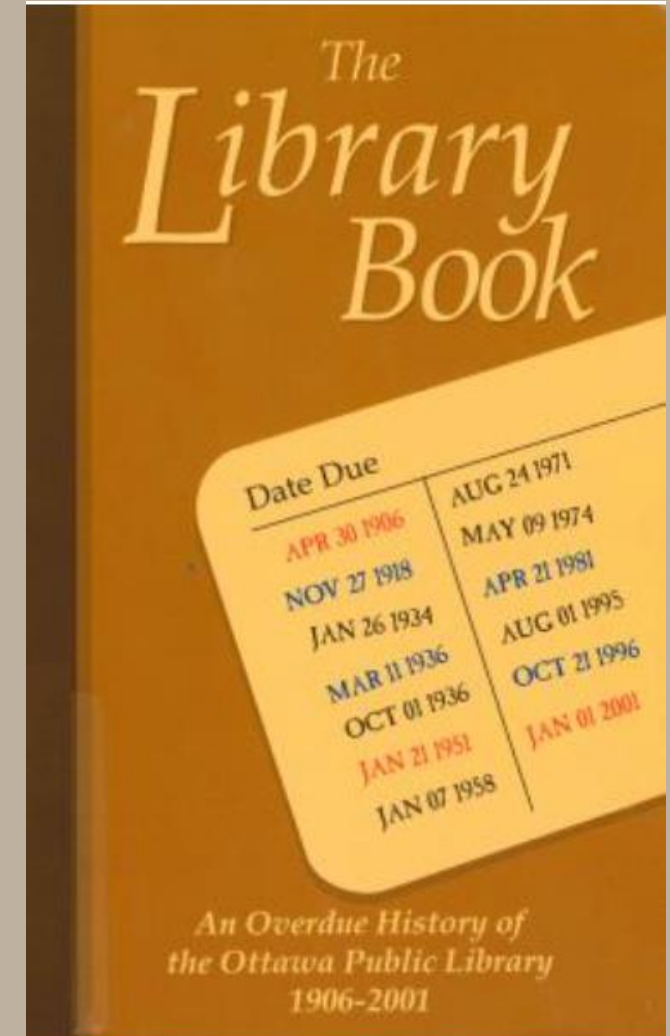
Everything you didn't know, but wanted to know, about the
Ottawa Public Library!

By Carol Pearson, Elisabeth Cloutier



A BIT OF HISTORY

- Founded in 1906 with donation from Carnegie Foundation
- *The Library Book: An Overdue History of the Ottawa Public Library, 1906-2001*, by Phil Jenkins (2002) – see opposite
- 2001 City of Ottawa Amalgamation: Ottawa's 8 original library branches merged with 25 branches in outlying municipalities
- The Ottawa Public Library is now the largest bilingual (English/French) public library system in North America.
- Serving close to one million Ottawa residents



Ottawa Public Library (OPL) Overview

EXTENSIVE LIBRARY COLLECTIONS & FREE SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES



- Books, Videos, Music, Newspapers, Magazines
- Hardcopy print, downloadable, on-line and streaming formats
- Accessible items (e.g., e-books, audiobooks, DAISY format, large print, etc.)
- DVDs and streaming movies, TV shows, operas, ballets, etc.
- Great Courses Series – DVDs and streaming
- Music CDs and streaming for millions of musical tracks
- Games for X-box, PS5, Switch, and Wii- Equipment too!

OPL Overview

BRANCHES & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Thirty-four (34) physical branches across the city
 - Programs and services offered in both official languages
- In-branch computers stations, printing and photocopying
 - OPL catalogue browsing, public Internet, wireless access, assistive technology workstations, **printing on site or via remote file uploads (mobile), copying services.**
- Specialized services at multiple various branches around the city.
- Two mobile libraries (Bookmobiles)
- Homebound services (e.g. for long-term care facilities)
- Social media presence
 - e.g., YouTube Author Series



A SAMPLE OF IN-BRANCH OFFERINGS Varies from month to month

- Creative Writing Group – Stittsville
- Knit and Knatter – Sunnyside
- Movie Night – Main Branch
- Novel Conversations Book Club – Beaverbrook
- StoryWalks for your grandchildren – North Gloucester
- Health and Wellness Series - Rosemount
- Digitization Lab Tour – Beaverbrook
- OPCUG Computer Lectures – Multiple locations



Find a program or event

Search programs

Filter Your Search

Choosing a filter below will cause the page to reload.

Audience

(-) Adults 50-plus

Adult (12)

Teen (2)

- (-) Adults 50-plus
- (-) Computers and technology



Exploring Online Banking and Shopping

DIVERSITY OF COLLECTIONS AND SPECIAL PROGRAMMING

Quality, Diversity, Relevance, Timeliness

- English and French languages
- Indigenous collections
- World language collections
- Canadian content
- Audiences of all ages
- Accessible formats
- Importance to community needs



Ottawa Public Library Resources

Ottawa Public Library Homepage - Top

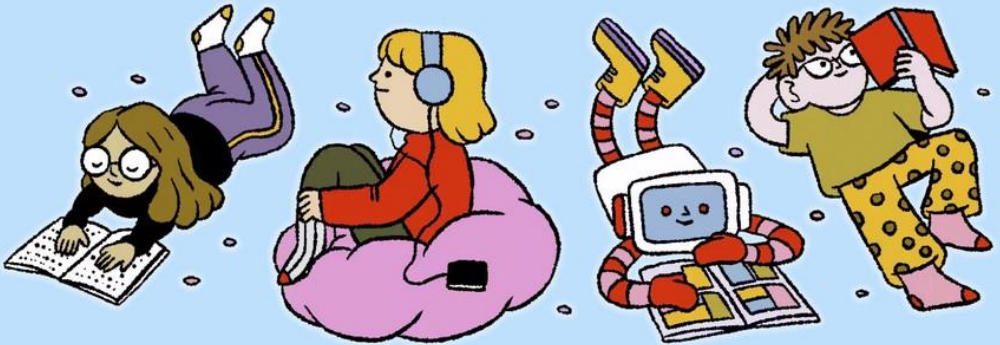
Get a Card | Donate | Contact Us | Reserve | Pay | Log In | FR

Ottawa Public Library *Bibliothèque publique d'Ottawa*


Search the by

Advanced Search


Home | Browse | Hours and locations | Services | Programs and events | Kids



TD Summer Reading Club



Stories of Summer: Adult Library Challenge



Summer Reading: Online Magazines

Ottawa Public Library Homepage - Middle

The screenshot displays the Ottawa Public Library homepage with the 'Browse' dropdown menu open. The menu is organized into three columns of links. The first column includes 'Explore', 'Catalogue', 'We Recommend', 'OPL's Most Requested', 'Recent Activity', 'New Titles', 'Awards', 'Bestsellers', 'Children's Book Bundles', 'Book Club Kits', and 'Access Passes: museums,'. The second column lists 'Browse by format' with sub-categories: 'Books', 'Video', 'Music', 'Magazines and newspapers', 'Musical Instruments', 'Online Resources', 'Gaming', 'Library Apps', and 'Equipment'. The third column lists 'Browse by subject' with categories: 'Business', 'Genealogy', 'Indigenous', 'Jobs and Careers', 'Local history', 'Newcomers', 'Parenting', and 'Teens'. The background shows the library logo, a search bar, and navigation tabs for 'Home', 'Browse', 'Hours and locations', 'Services', 'Programs and events', and 'Kids'. A search bar on the right contains the text 'compte.' and a search button.

Library **Bibliothèque**
publique d'Ottawa

Search the Catalogue by Keyword

Advanced Search

Home Browse Hours and locations Services Programs and events Kids

✓ Wel

Explore Browse by format Browse by subject

Catalogue Books Business

We Recommend Video Genealogy

OPL's Most Requested Music Indigenous

Recent Activity Magazines and newspapers Jobs and Careers

New Titles Musical Instruments Local history

Awards Online Resources Newcomers

Bestsellers Gaming Parenting

Children's Book Bundles Library Apps Teens

Book Club Kits

Equipment

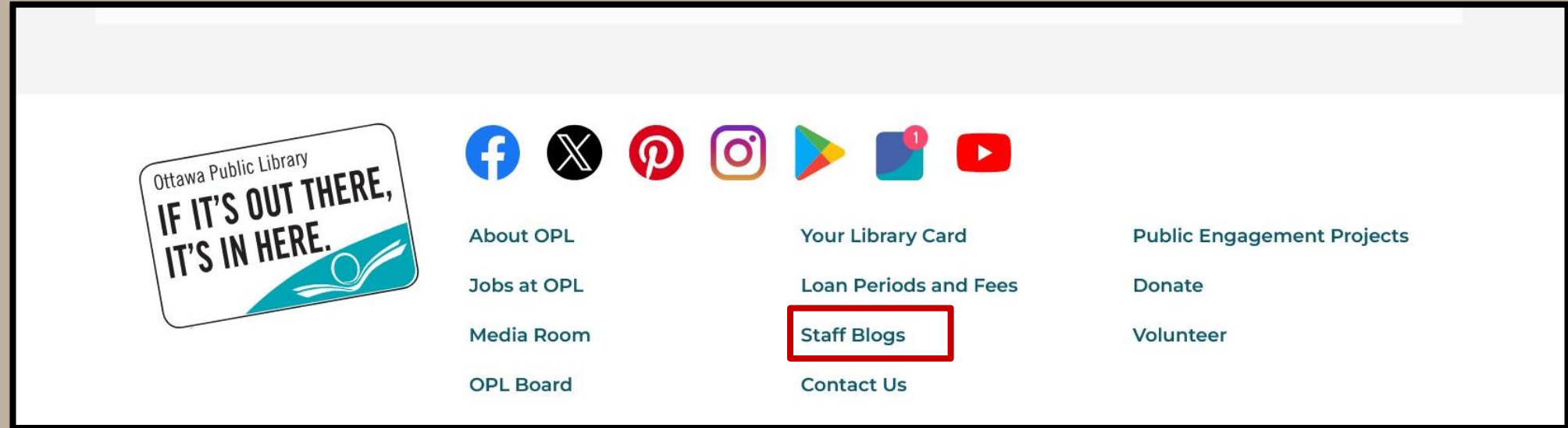
Access Passes: museums,

compte. x

ies of Summer:
Adult Library
Challenge

Summer Reading:
Online Magazines

Ottawa Public Library Homepage - Bottom



<https://www.ccaeresearch.ca/ottawa-valley-food-security-project/>

Ottawa Public Library Loan Periods and Fees

General Collections

Item Type	Loan Period	Limit	Renewals	Replacement Cost
Book - Print / Audio	21 days	none	5	variable
Book - Print / Audio (Express)	7 days	none	1	variable
eBook (Express)	7 days	2	0	variable
eBook / eAudiobook	varies	10	0	variable
DAISY audiobook	42 days	none	5	variable
Magazine	21 days	none	5	variable
DVD	21 days	none	5	variable
DVD Film (Express)	3 days	none	0	variable
DVD - TV Series (Express)	7 days	none	0	variable
Music CD	21 days	none	5	variable
Music CD (Express)	7 days	none	1	variable
Video Game	21 days	5	5	variable
Video Game (Express)	7 days	1	1	variable
Interlibrary Loan	varies	none	0	variable

IN-Branch Computer Workstations and Printers.

All OPL Branches have computer workstations with Windows 10 and various software, and printers, available for use. Also 24 hour WIFI.

All OPL Branches have printers, which can print and scan. B&W Printing \$0.10 a page. Upload Documents at home, print them at any branch.

Print Books, Print Periodicals

Ottawa Public Library Homepage – Search for Books

The screenshot shows the Ottawa Public Library homepage. At the top left is the logo for "Library Bibliothèque publique d'Ottawa". To the right is a search bar with the text "Search the Catalogue by Keyword" and a search icon. Below the search bar is a navigation menu with options: Home, Browse, Hours and locations, Services, Programs and events, and Kids. The "Browse" menu is open, showing three columns of options: "Explore", "Browse by format", and "Browse by subject". The "Explore" column includes links for Catalogue, We Recommend, OPL's Most Requested, Recent Activity, New Titles, Awards, and Bestsellers. The "Browse by format" column includes Books, Video, Music, Magazines and newspapers, Musical Instruments, Online Resources, Gaming, Library Apps, and Equipment. The "Browse by subject" column includes Business, Genealogy, Indigenous, Jobs and Careers, Local history, Newcomers, Parenting, and Teens. A red box highlights the "Books" and "Magazines and newspapers" options in the "Browse by format" column.

Library Bibliothèque publique d'Ottawa

Search the Catalogue by Keyword

Advanced Search

Home Browse Hours and locations Services Programs and events Kids

Explore

Catalogue

We Recommend

OPL's Most Requested

Recent Activity

New Titles

Awards

Bestsellers

Children's Book Bundles

Book Club Kits

Access Passes: museums

Browse by format

Books

Video

Music

Magazines and newspapers

Musical Instruments

Online Resources

Gaming

Library Apps

Equipment

Browse by subject

Business

Genealogy

Indigenous

Jobs and Careers

Local history

Newcomers

Parenting

Teens

On This Page

General Collections

Access Passes

Musical Instruments

Equipment

Other Fees

Sample Newspaper Page (Print)

Filter your results by... Sort by: Relevance

Available Now

Format

Magazines & Newspapers

Newspaper (115)

Titles I can...

Content

Form/Genre


Topic

Regions


Languages

Published Date


Rating





The Sunday Times Magazine
★★★★☆

 Newspaper - 1904-
PER
Available [View location availability](#)


Place hold

 For Later







The Hill Times
★★★★☆

 Newspaper - 1989-2021
PER
In-library use only [View location availability](#)

For Later



The Gazette

 Newspaper - 1867-2014
PER
In-library use only [View location availability](#)

For Later

1 to 10 of 115 results

^ To

EXPRESS COLLECTIONS



- Express Books are meant for **fast turnaround circulation of current bestsellers** – no holds possible and shorter loan periods.
- Express is First Come, First Serve-You can borrow whatever is available in person on the Express shelves – the online catalogue will show the availability of desired item by Branch.
- Express applies also to Free Access Passes to Museums, Parks and other special sites, check availability on website pass page to see Branches where you can borrow them. To provide equitable access, passes are Express items and cannot be put on hold. You can check out one pass at a time for up to seven days.

BORROW FREE ACCESS PASSES

Free general admission to museums, parks, skiing, etc.

Available on Express Shelves in CD cases, pick up in person

Check availability on website; no holds allowed

Can use passes for one week; instructions provided



- **Art Pass-** National Gallery- family
- **Ingenium Pass-** Access to Canada Agriculture and Food Museum, the Canadian Aviation and Space Museum and the Canada Science and Technology Museum.
- **Library Pass –Currently suspended:** Regular admission for a family (maximum of 4 adults and 6 children) to: Billings Estate National Historic Site, Bytown Museum, Cumberland Heritage Village Museum, Diefenbunker: Canada's Cold War Museum, Goulbourn Museum, Nepean Museum, Osgoode Township Historical Society and Museum, Pinhey's Point Historic Site, Vanier Museopark, Watson's Mill, Fairfield's Heritage House.
- **Nature Card-** Pass to Canadian Museum of Nature
- **Ontario Parks 2024 Commercial Vehicle Permit-** Each pass entitles a vehicle to enter any provincial park for free (depending on parking availability), valid until posted hours of closing. Container also includes Parks guide with phone numbers and brief information about the parks.
- **City of Ottawa Ski Pass (Mooney's Bay); Gatineau Park Cross Country Ski Pass** (new season starts Dec. or Jan. (when snow arrives))

FREE SMART LIBRARY CARD

Available to all OPL card holders. Inquire at your local branch.

Browse all library catalogues: <https://smartlib-bibliogen.ca>

Each library has specific rules about how to access their materials

Collections available at 12 libraries in the National Capital Region:



- Universities: Carleton University, Dominican University, L'Université du Québec en Outaouais, U Ottawa
- Colleges: Algonquin, La Cité
- Museums: Canadian Museum of History, Canadian Aviation and Space Museum, Canadian Museum of Nature, Canada Science and Technology Museum, National Gallery of Canada, Canadian War Museum
- Public: Ottawa Public Library, La Bibliothèque Municipale de Gatineau

If your item is not here...



- Suggest a purchase – items published in last 2 years can be acquired, if available in Canada
- Free access to all libraries across the National Capital Region – Smart Library
- Interlibrary loans—across Ontario and Canada (small fee)

Book Club Kits

Each kit comes in a sturdy denim bag and contains:

- 10 copies of the same book
- A laminated guide with additional resources, including discussion questions



Children's Book Bundles

Our staff will pick out a bundle of 5 books based on your child's interests and place them on hold for you.



Online Resources


Books, Periodicals

Ottawa Public Library Homepage – Search for Digital Resources

Explore	Browse by format	Browse by subject
Catalogue ↗	Books	Book Sanctuary
We Recommend	Video	Business
OPL's Most Requested	Music	Genealogy
Recent Activity ↗	Magazines and newspapers	Indigenous
New Titles ↗	Musical Instruments	Jobs and Careers
Awards ↗	Online Resources	Local history
Bestsellers ↗	Gaming	Newcomers
Children's Book Bundles	Library Apps	Parenting
Access Passes: museums, parks, and skiing	Equipment	Teens
SmartLibrary	Chromebooks	
Book Club Kits		

Online Resources- Filters

Use our free online resources for consumer research, online classes, language learning, newspaper reading and more.



Learn (19)




Listen (11)



Read (23)



Research (29)



Watch (12)

Filter Your Search

Choosing a filter below will cause the page to reload.



Bilingual / Bilingue (11)

English (52)

Français (10)

Search by Keyword

Apply

Reset

Your Favourites

Access Video on Demand

Remove a favourite

Express eBooks and Audiobooks: CloudLibrary

Remove a favourite

Hill Times

Remove a favourite

DIGITAL AND ON-LINE COLLECTIONS

Available for free with library card



- **e-Books:** Libby (Overdrive), CloudLibrary, Cantook French Language, TumbleBook
- **Audiobooks:** Libby (Overdrive), Audiobook Cloud French Audiobook Cloud Naxos Spoken Word



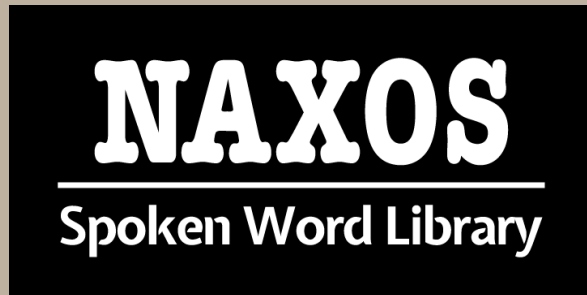
- **Magazines** downloadable (English and French): Eureka (Fr.), Libby, Flipster, PressReader
- **Newspapers** on-line: Canadian Major Dailies_ProQuest, Globe and Mail_Proquest Historical, New York Times, Ottawa Citizen, PressReader (12 French newspapers)
- **Streaming video or music:** Hoopla, Kanopy, (incl. French series), Curio-CBC & RadioCanada, Naxos, Medici
- **Other On-line resources:** Canadian Reference Centre, ConsumerReports.org, Creativebug, AtoZ World Foods, Ancestry Library (in-branch computers only), Canadian Encyclopedia, etc.



Online/Digital Books



French language and audio books



Direct play no waiting Audio books

!! Many of these apps require another log in from the library site.



OverDrive - Libby



Tumblebook Library and Tumble book Cloud for children and teens



Audio Book cloud - you can listen to the book right now, now, no wait!

Online Resources

Movies, Videos, Courses, Music, and More

Streaming

Movies, Performances, Courses, Music and More



Naxos Video Library

- Extensive streaming video library of classical music performances - operas, ballets, concerts, dances, documentaries.
- Watch fine productions from the world's greatest opera houses, ballet and dance companies, orchestras, artists, festivals and concert halls on demand.

Kanopy is a video app.

- Stream entertainment to your preferred device with no fees and no commercials by partnering with public libraries and universities.
- We have a diverse catalog with new titles added every month.
- **12 free** selections per month. Get an Email every We have a diverse catalog with new titles added every month
- **Apps can be downloaded to firestick or apple tv**

Hoopla Digital video app

- Motion picture films, television shows, complete music albums, graphic novels & comics, and Binge Passes. The collection includes current and past hits, as well as classics.
- Technologically, we focus on the latest browser, phone, tablet, Hoopla is accessible from your computer, laptop, or wireless device, including Android Auto. There are karaoke and music playlists available for download for 7 days. **6 selections per month.**

CBC Corner

- Developed specifically for public libraries, CBC Corner is a digital portal that brings together the wide variety of CBC and Radio-Canada digital content and resources into a single experience
- The portal allows you to access a wide variety of content including trusted news, local stories, entertaining TV and radio shows, award-winning podcasts, educational kids content, innovative podcasts, a free English and French language learning app, news in foreign languages, and much more!

Medici. TV- watch ballets, classical music concerts, jazz concerts



LinkedIn Learning offers over 16,000 video tutorial courses led by experts in Business, Creative, and Technology. Some tutorials are available in English, French, German, Japanese, Mandarin, Portuguese, and Spanish.



Tell us which skills you'd like to learn

Follow three skills to get started. Your selections will help us personalize course recommendations for you and your career goal. You can follow and unfollow additional skills later.

Top business topics

- Microsoft Excel
- Microsoft Power BI
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Management
- Project Management
- Leadership
- Personal Development
- Business Analysis
- Entrepreneurship
- Customer Service
- Human Resources (HR)
- Finance
- Sales
- Marketing
- Training and Development (HR)
- Accounting
- Career Development

Top technology topics

- Python (Programming Language)
- SQL
- Data Science
- DevOps
- System Administration
- Software Development
- Cloud Computing
- Databases
- Web Development
- Technical Support
- Mobile Application Development

Top creative topics

- Adobe Photoshop
- Graphic Design
- Architecture
- Animation
- User Experience Design (UED)
- Photography
- Video Production
- Audio Recording

Select at least one skill to continue

Continue

Gaming



And so much more!



Learn 40 languages!



AtoZ food World

6,500 + Recipes, 750 + World Beer Reviews, 500 + Ingredient Articles, 6 Food Glossaries
Personal Recipe Book, and more

Creativebug different craft classes. Learn how to paint, knit, sew, and much more. Creativebug offers thousands of award-winning arts & crafts free video classes and workshops. They are all taught by recognized design experts and artists.

Mango Languages offers 40 online language learning courses for English speakers and 15 English courses for non-English speakers. Each course has 100 lessons. In each lesson, the students see text and hear dialog that they are invited to repeat

ValueLine The Value Line Investment Survey and Small & Midcap Survey offers access to over 3,500 stocks across 100 industries. This includes analysts' reports, statistics and forecasts of stock performance

Example - Digital Costs of Library Resources

Title	Physical Book Cost (with discount)	OverDrive Cost for Libraries	Amazon Kindle Cost
The Women / Kristin Hannah	\$18.00	\$60/copy - 24-month license Audiobook is \$59.99 (ownership, no license)	\$14.99
Listen for the Lie / Amy Tintera	\$17.00	\$60/copy - 24-month license Audiobook is \$49.99 (ownership, no license)	\$13.99
James / Percival Everett	\$17.00	\$27.50/copy - 12-month license or \$55.00/copy for 24 months Audiobook is \$76.00 (ownership, no license)	\$14.99
The #1 Lawyer / James Patterson	\$18.00	\$65/copy - 24-month license Audiobook is \$75/copy for a 24-month license.	\$14.99
Toxic Prey	\$19.00	\$27.50/copy - 12-month license or \$55.00/copy for 24 months Audiobook is \$95.00 (ownership, no license)	\$14.99

Genealogy

- **In Library use only-** Ancestry databases available only in person,
- Ancestry Library
 - American, Canadian and U.K. sources, as well as some for Australia, New Zealand and Europe.
 - Canadian coverage
 - The censuses from 1851 to 1916,
 - Ontario civil registration of births, marriages and deaths,
 - Quebec Drouin Collection (courthouse copies of parish registers).
- German records include passenger lists for many people leaving Eastern Europe.
- New databases are constantly being added. Many of the sources are digitized.
- Other Library Ancestry online resources - FamilySearch Affiliate Library
- Various other sources of newspapers
- Canadiana by Canadian Research Knowledge Network

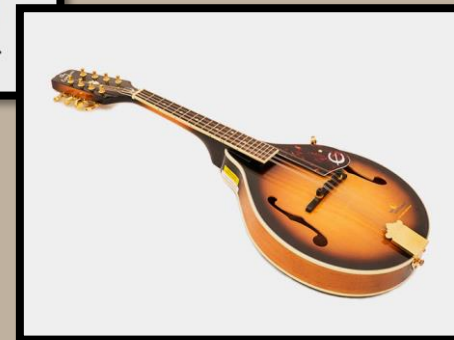
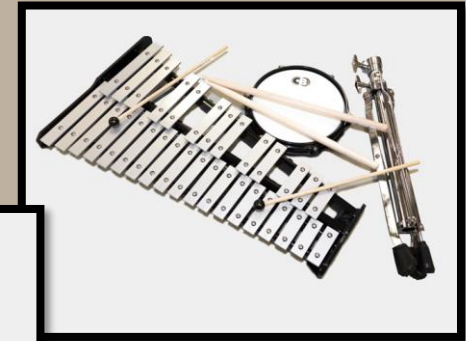
Bring a thumb drive to download info

SPECIALIZED SERVICES AT SELECT BRANCHES

- Imagine Spaces and Labs
 - Digitization lab (Beaverbrook), music editing station (Cumberland, Dickinson), 3D Printing (Nepean Centre Point)
- Ottawa Room – Main Branch (all things Ottawa) including over 1,200 maps from 1856 to present
- Archives and Library Materials Centre – Nepean
- Meeting rooms for community bookings – most branches
- Borrow musical instruments - guitars, keyboards, banjos
 - Main, Nepean, Cumberland, Greenboro
- Borrow specialty equipment like telescopes, carbon dioxide monitors and thermal cameras (various branches) or book sewing machines (Nepean)
- Gaming kiosks with PlayStation 4 and Wii U
 - Available at 13 branches



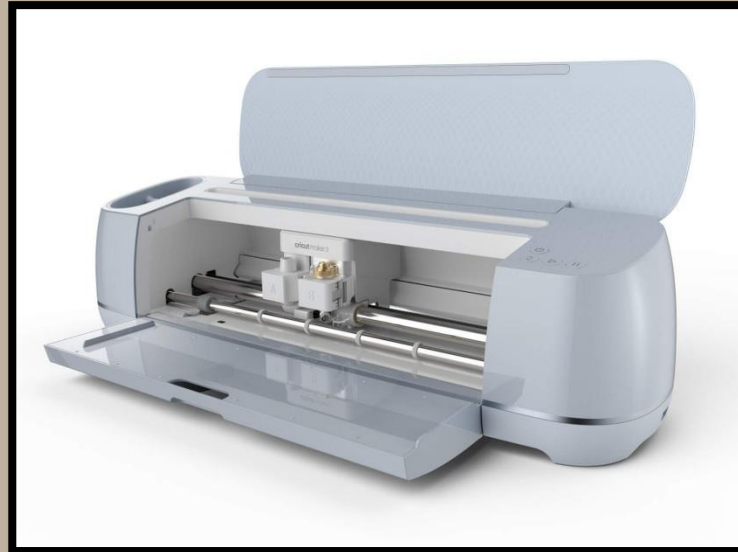
Musical Instruments



Equipment



Brother Embroidery Machine



Cricut Maker 3



Schoolmate Sewing Machine



Airthread Serger

Telescopes, 3D Printers, Home Equipment



Conversion, Editing Equipment



Accessibility- The Ottawa Public Library is a designated public sector organization under the [Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act \(AODA\)](#) and is committed to meeting the accessibility needs of people with disabilities.

- All branch PC Workstations have:
 - a built-in narrator,
 - magnifier, high contrast options,
 - closed captioning,
 - Sticky Keys
 - reading and writing software that allows users to scan a document and have it read aloud,
- Every Ottawa Public Library (OPL) branch is equipped with an assistive technology workstation. All assistive technology workstations include:
 - Accessible keyboards, StickyKeys, Trackball mice, 23” touchscreen monitors
 - Height-adjustable tables, Scanners with Presto! PageManager software
 - Other assistive technology features that are available at OPL include:
 - Victor Readers (also known as DAISY players), Assistive Listening Devices,
 - Video Magnifiers



SPECIAL TOPICS



Friends of the Ottawa
Public Library Association

L'Association des amis de la
Bibliothèque publique d'Ottawa

- Information Services – 613-580-2940,
<https://www.fopla-aabpo.ca/>
- Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association
 - Fundraises for the OPLS
 - Accepts book donations and sells at volunteer-run stores
(Stores at five branch location)
- Volunteering for the Library
 - e.g. Adult Literacy Program
 - ESL groups

Book Sanctuary-

In response to recent challenges to materials in libraries across North America, some public libraries have been declaring themselves "Book Sanctuaries", a movement that began in September 2022 when the Chicago Public Library declared themselves a space for endangered stories and called for others to do the same. A Book Sanctuary is a physical or digital space that actively protects the freedom to read. It provides shelter and access to “endangered” books, and can be created by anyone and can exist anywhere – in a library, a classroom, a coffee shop corner, a community center, public park, or even on social media.

Find out more about how you can get involved in the

[Book Sanctuary Movement](https://www.booksanctuary.org/),

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



By the book: Ottawa Public Library takes a stand on intellectual rights, book bans and cancel culture

The New Ottawa Central Library Project (2026) - 555 Albert Street

- Since 2019, together with Library and Archives Canada, we've worked in partnership with Kitigan Zibi Anishinābeg and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation on many aspects of our joint facility project. We are honoured that Elders and members from these two communities have named the building Adisōke, an Anishinābemowin word that refers to the telling of stories. Storytelling is the traditional means by which Indigenous Peoples share knowledge, culture and history over generations. **Adisōke is a meaningful and fitting name as storytelling represents the coming together of knowledge, history, discovery, culture, creativity, collaboration, and connections.**
- Learn more
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JmceZQKDbt0>

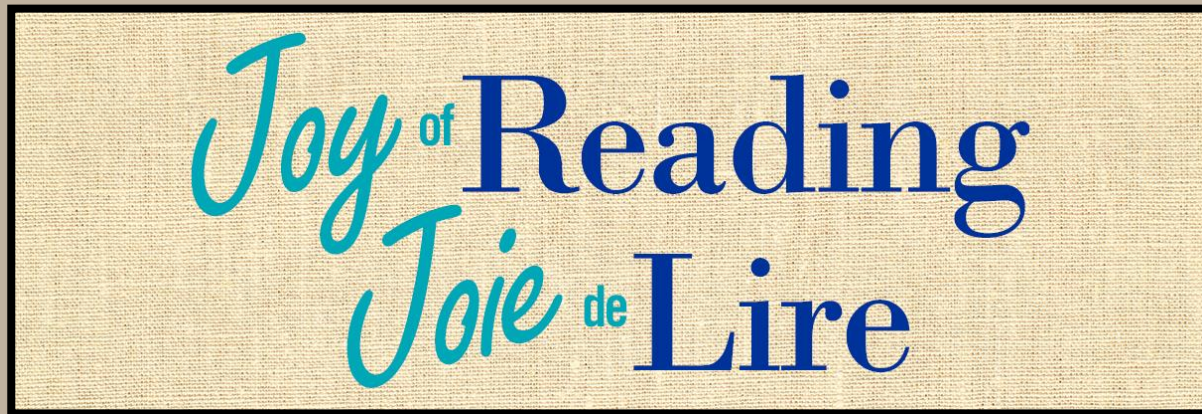


**"Books are the bridges that
carry us to lands unknown
and minds unexplored."
– Emily Dickinson**



2024 October- Canadian Library Month

Ottawa Public Library Month



ALL QUESTIONS WELCOME!



Contact Information

The Ottawa Public Library

<https://bibliottawalibrary.ca>

613-580-2940