

Roseburg Library Considering Electronic Magazine Subscription Kris Wiley for The News Review

If you like to read popular magazines, help us decide whether to add electronic magazines to Roseburg Public Library's collection.

We are investigating the possibility of providing access to more than 5,000 digital magazines through an annual license with OverDrive.

Please complete the survey, located on the library's website at www.roseburgpubliclibrary.org, before April 10. The survey also is available at the library.

Survey results will be shared with the Library Commission, which will make a recommendation about how to proceed.

I have been considering this change for a while as more and more magazines discontinue printing on paper.

The library currently subscribes to about 25 print titles, including People, Rolling Stone, Popular Mechanics and Sports Illustrated Kids, that can be checked out with a valid Roseburg Public Library card. We intend to continue providing magazines in print at a cost of \$900 a year.

I think it may be time to add emagazines because they are available on OverDrive, a product we already use.

A little more context: Longtime digital readers may remember Zinio, the most popular platform in the early days of electronic magazines.

OverDrive now partners with Zinio, and digital magazines are available on the same platform as electronic books and audiobooks.

Most users access ebooks and eaudio through OverDrive's Libby app, and some users access digital material on their computers through the Library2go website at library2go.overdrive.com. Both paths support emagazines.

Many popular magazines would be available – everything from The New Yorker to National Geographic to Car and Driver to TV Guide.

There are titles for young people, too, from Highlights Hello for the youngest learners to Girls' Life and The Expert's Guide to Completing Minecraft for older kids.

Magazines are available in many languages besides English, including Spanish, French, Chinese and Japanese.

There are two other major selling points of OverDrive. One, they allow simultaneous use of emagazines, meaning there is no cap on the number of people who can check out the same magazine at the same time. This is different from most OverDrive ebooks and eaudio, which are one user per copy.

Second, patrons can check out as many magazines as they would like at one time.

The annual cost for the digital magazines subscription is \$2,000, and we would pay for it with operating funds. To do that, we would purchase fewer books. The average cost of a print book is \$22, which equals about 90 fewer books over one year. Keep in mind the library purchased nearly 3,900 books in 2023.

The survey asks patrons whether they would check out digital magazines on their phone, tablet or computer. It also asks whether patrons would like the library to add emagazines to the collection and purchase fewer books.

Patrons have the opportunity to share additional comments on the survey, in person or by email to kwiley@cityofroseburg.org.

This Week's Library Events

Tuesday, April 9, 3-5 p.m. – Maker Space Time

Tuesday, April 9, 6:30 p.m. – Online Book Group (email kwiley@cityofroseburg.org for the Zoom link)

Wednesday, April 10, 11:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Wednesday, April 10, 4-4:45 p.m. – Club de Idioma Español | Spanish Club for 2nd through 8th graders

Thursday, April 11, 11:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Thursday, April 11, 3:30-5 p.m. – Building & Legos for all ages

Thursday, April 11, 6:30 p.m. – Umpqua Valley Winemaking presented by Joel Goodwillie