

Changes for OverDrive Users

Kris Wiley for The News-Review

Roseburg Public Library patrons love electronic books and audiobooks. They checked out 2,000 digital items in December, accounting for nearly one-third of all circulation.

The library offers two ebook platforms, cloudLibrary and OverDrive. We started with cloudLibrary in late 2018 through a loosely based consortium with public libraries in Albany, Clackamas County, Corvallis-Benton County and Salem. Roseburg patrons check out about 550 cloudLibrary items each month.

We added OverDrive in July 2019 through the Oregon Digital Library Consortium. Many patrons know this as Library2Go, and it was available when the Douglas County Library System was active. The OverDrive app has been accessible on smartphones and tablets since its inception more than a decade ago. More recently, the company introduced a second app – Libby – to access the same content.

All of that is quite confusing, so the company is simplifying the process by phasing out the OverDrive app.

Next month, new users no longer will find OverDrive in the Apple App Store, Google Play and the Microsoft Store. Instead, Libby will be the only option available. Roseburg patrons will continue to log in with their library card number, and the default password is the 10-digit phone number used to register the account.

Patrons who currently use the OverDrive app will be able to continue with it for now; however, the company intends to eliminate the app at a date to be determined, likely within the next year.

Therefore, I encourage all OverDrive app users to switch to Libby sooner rather than later. Your checkouts and holds will migrate with you.

The company continues to work on developing the Libby app. I like that the app supports multiple library cards, so my husband and I can share a device and each check out up to six items. I also appreciate that the bookshelf displays loans and holds in one location.

Kindle Fire users will note the biggest difference because Libby is not available in the Amazon app store. Instead, users should download the Libby webapp through the device's Silk browser. In addition, Kindle Fire users can stream ebooks and eaudiobooks in their browser or read electronic books in Kindle format.

Libby users also currently cannot recommend purchases through the app, but library staff always is happy to pass along suggestions to the consortium.

The Library2Go website will remain library2go.overdrive.com, and it includes a lot of information on Libby.

Roseburg Public Library staff is available to help navigate these changes. Contact us at library@cityofroseburg.org or 541-492-7050 to schedule an appointment. Plan to spend about 30 minutes setting up a device.