

County of Fairfax, Virginia

Fairfax County Public Library: Beyond the Printed Book

When asked for a synonym for "library", book is the frequent response. The Fairfax County Public Library embraced the opportunity to offer books in electronic formats, as well as print on paper, when technologies developed to make that possible in 2000. Electronic books both as text and as audiobooks are available to library customers. All you need is your library card.

Overdrive is the primary supplier of electronic books for the library. Currently, circulation of electronic books in Fairfax is comparable to that of a small community library. With the addition of over 15,000 public domain titles in September 2010, there are nearly 20,000 titles available to library cardholders to read as ebooks. Eaudiobooks have been very popular and there are nearly 8,000 titles available for listening.

While reading or listening to electronic books on the computer is pleasant, downloading them to a portable device such as an ebook reader or audio player broadens their utility. Enter digital rights management (DRM) which is needed for libraries where the model is "lending" as opposed to "purchasing" a title as someone might from for example iTunes or Amazon.

Ready to begin?

- Start on the library's homepage www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library > select "Listen to an eaudiobook" or "Read an ebook." > select Overdrive

OR

- Go directly to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/dbsRemote/company/overdrive.htm>.

What ebook readers and audio players can be used?

Overdrive continually tests devices and provides lists of compatible ones for:
ebooks at <http://www.overdrive.com/resources/drc/compatibleebookdevices.aspx>

audiobooks at <http://www.overdrive.com/resources/drc/compatibledevices.aspx>

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