

Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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September 30, 2011

“CDs, Video Games, Movies, Audio Books and More at the Library”



As Circulations Manager of the Norfolk Public Library, Doug Collier may read through the Rolling Stones magazine or peruse Billboard magazine online to order library materials. With most libraries offering a plethora of multimedia to their patrons, Collier is continuously searching for the best music CDs to supplement the Norfolk Library's materials with.

Currently there are over 2000 different music CDs from Lady Gaga to show tunes with music aficionados having a week in which to enjoy a CD before returning it. According to Collier there are music CDs that include Christian, soundtracks, instrumental, Celtic, New Age, classical, show tunes, children's, pop, instrumental, Spanish, and best of the 70's, 80's and 90's with pop music and country music proving to be the most popular. More than 2000 CDs are checked out each month at the library and a special media slot on the outdoor library return box lets people return the CDs safely and conveniently. Collier encourages patrons to E-mail him with music suggestions at dcollier@ci.norfolk.ne.us.

Library Director Mike Caldararo makes sure another area of the library is also kept updated-the collection of more than 100 video games.

"I'll ask kids what recommendations they have for games to offer. We can usually find a lot of the games on sale so we bargain shop. We keep as current as we can and are

developing a pretty respectable collection of new games" Caldararo said.

These video games can be played either on the Wii, X-Box, X-Box 360, Playstation 2 or Playstation 3. According to Caldararo, elementary students to adults check out over 200 of the games per month.

"The mission of the library is to be a center for culture, education and recreation. The idea of a library as a stuffy old place with only shelves of dusty books is long gone. As a community center it's wonderful to be able to offer all of these different types of resources to our patrons," Caldararo said.

One of the biggest multimedia collections in the library is the 2500 DVD movies available for check-out. Although there are hundreds of movies to watch for entertainment, there are also self-help DVDs, documentaries, exercise DVDs, how-to DVDs, children's shows, travel DVDs, and landscaping DVDs.

"Over 25 years ago we started offering videos for people to check out. They proved to be popular then and continue to be popular today," said Children's Librarian Karen Drevo. Over 2400 movies are checked out each month at the library.

There are currently 1300 recorded books available for checkout also with nearly 700 of these audio books checked out each month. Patrons are allowed to keep these CDs for two weeks before returning them.

"We try to keep our recorded book collection as current as our bookshelves with bestsellers and popular authors. People can put an audio book in their vehicle CD player when they drive and listen to their favorite fiction or non-fiction books as they cruise down the road," Librarian Gloria Brown said.

All of these multimedia materials are catalogued into the library's system so a person can come into the library, do a quick search for, say, "Elvis" on one of the library computers and pull up results for not only books about Elvis but any music CDs, movie DVDs or audio books that refer to Elvis.

"We've always been reinventing the library with what's going on in the world. It's a matter of providing a service to people who are growing up with technology and who expect those resources to be available to use at the library, too," Said Judy Hilkemann, Reference Supervisor.

The most popular multimedia resource in the library is the computer lab. There are about 3000 online sessions per month logged by users. "We have people waiting at the door in the morning to get online and most of the lab is full all day," Hilkemann said.

There are fourteen computers available for Internet use and patrons can use a computer for a one hour online session twice a day. Two computers are set aside for express use which allows two 15 minute sessions per day. There is also free Wi-Fi access at the library for people who have laptops and want to access the Internet.

"In November we'll also begin showing movies regularly on our new multimedia equipment. It's a lot of fun to pick movies and get to know our patrons that way" said Collier. A schedule of movies and show times will be available soon on the library's website.

For more information on what multimedia is available at the library, call 402-844-2100.