

# Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

[www.ci.norfolk.ne.us](http://www.ci.norfolk.ne.us)

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## "netLibrary"



Many Norfolk residents have a reference library of 37,000 books in their homes. Fortunately they don't need another room in their home to store these volumes. Instead these books are available to them online without charge through a service of the Norfolk Public Library.

Judy Hilkemann, reference supervisor at the library, said netLibrary is an online database made available through a purchase by a large group of Nebraska libraries- the Nebraska netLibrary Consortium. These 150 libraries include three at Creighton University and one at Hemingford, Nebraska. As members of the consortium, these libraries have exclusive access to the netLibrary e-

books. Each year, the libraries are able to add to their collection another 3500 or so reference materials that have become available.

"It's one of the most comprehensive collection of resource materials available online. From your home, dorm room or office, you can access a tremendous amount of information," Hilkemann said, "We have a total of approximately 118,000 items in the Norfolk Public Library of which 2,200 are reference books. You can see how the additional netLibrary titles greatly expand our collection."

The first step to getting into netLibrary is to set up a personal account at the Norfolk Public Library. This only has to be done once. At the library are computers which have an icon on the desktop that links to the netLibrary. A Create Account button appears on the netLibrary navigation bar at the top of the screen. It takes less than a minute to enter information in the Create An Account form. Required fields are labeled with bold red text. Users will then choose a user name and password that allows them access into the netLibrary.

On their home or office computer, users go to the <http://www.netlibrary.com> and log in using their user name and password.

The site and instructions for signing up can also be accessed by going to the Norfolk Public Library's website, <http://www.ci.norfolk.ne.us/library>, and clicking on Online Services and then Electronic Books. The initial creation of an account has to be done at the library.

Once in the site, users are able to type in a topic in a search box to find pertinent resources. Typing in "Norfolk Nebraska history" brings up 62 e-books including an 1890's book titled "Impertinences" by Elia Wilkenson Peattie that discusses sugar beet processing in Norfolk. Clicking on the title brings up a webpage that allows the user to click through and view the book's pages using Next and Previous buttons. A Print button will print off a particular

page. A quote from the book: "Norfolk had a grace and charm all its own. The transformation of a dirt-covered beet into many thousand white and glistening granules of sugar is an interesting and remarkable process – it is a thing of such fine ingenuity, such nice adjustments and such accurate tests. The sugar turned out by the Nebraska sugar beet factories ranks with the best granulated sugar made."

There is also the option of typing in notes about the book in a side pane of the web page. These user notes can then be saved and referred to later on. A person can also do a search for terms or topics within the book.

A tab entitled "eContent Details" brings up the ISBN number of the book, the publisher, the author and other information about the book. There is also the option of adding the book to a "Favorites" list or emailing information about the book to someone else.

A link to an online dictionary is included on the webpage as is a link to online atlases, encyclopedias and search engines.

Even new popular titles such as the 2009 "Invisible China-A Journey Through Ethnic Borderlands," is available on the site.

"There is tremendous convenience of it all- being able to have many titles at your fingertips and some unusual titles that only one person might be able to use. A library by itself could not afford to purchase and house all of those titles. The netLibrary allows us to offer many unique titles we couldn't afford to otherwise," Hilkemann said.