Central Arkansas Library System E-Library

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CENTRAL ARKANSAS LIBRARY SYSTEM E-LIBRARY SUPPORT
100 ROCK ST.
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72201
501-918-3097
elibrary@cals.org

For Additional Assistance: Phone Line: 501-918-3097 E-mail: eLibrary@cals.org
1. What Is The E-Library?

The **Central Arkansas Library System’s (CALS) E-Library** is an online library branch. The E-Library Branch is available anywhere there is a computer or device with Internet access. The direct web address to the E-Library:

**http://cals.lib.overdrive.com**

2. What Can You Get From CALS E-Library?

We have books you can read and books you can listen to. These books come in different formats accessible on a variety of different computers and devices.

**E-Books:** are books you read. They appear on a computer screen or on the screen of a portable “computer like” device like tablets and E-Readers.

**Adobe E-Pub E-Books:** the file format that most devices and E-Readers can download for E-Books.

**Kindle Books:** (KMZ files) are used exclusively by Amazon Kindle Devices and by Amazon Kindle Applications running on a variety of tablets and E-Readers.

**Downloadable Audio Books:** recordings of books read by a narrator or a cast of actors for listening. Audio Books have traditionally been available as either “Books on Cassette Tape” or “Books on Compact Disc.” Downloadable Audio Books can be played on your computer, an MP3 Player/ Apple i-Pod, or even on some Smart Phones.

**MP3 Audio Books:** MP3 Audio Book formats is the easiest to download and play on a variety of audio devices. Unfortunately, most book publishers do not choose the MP3 format for their Audio Books.

**WMA Audio Books:** **Windows Media Audio Books** are the commercial standard file format that most book publishers choose for their Audio Books. Unfortunately, WMA Audio Books do not play on all devices.

3. Which Electronic Devices Can Access Items From The Library?

**E-Readers:** An E-Book Reader is a portable device designed for reading digital copies of books and periodicals. E-Readers allow users to store large numbers of books as digital files on a slim and light weight device. Many E-Readers have a special black and white screen called e-ink that imitates real paper pages and can be read even in direct sunlight. Most E-Readers have the capacity to adjust the size of text so that all E-Books can be large print books if necessary. E-Readers usually have longer battery life than other portable devices; up to a month or longer without recharging. E-Readers usually have limited access to other websites or online files other than to download more E-Books.

For Additional Assistance: Phone Line: 501-918-3097 E-mail: eLibrary@cals.org
Tablets: is a mobile device that has many of the same functions as a personal computer. Tablets are primarily operated by touch screen instead of having a physical keyboard or a mouse. Tablets usually have high quality color screens that can show pictures, videos and other multimedia. Tablets can be ideal for E-Books that are in color and have access to multimedia materials such a video clips and interactive screens. Tablet computers do not have the battery life that E-Readers have and they do not have the e-ink screen that imitates real papers so they are not ideal for reading in direct sunlight.

MP3 Players: An MP3 player is a portable device designed for listening to music and audio programs. The term MP3 player comes from the computer files called MP3’s. MP3’s are the dominate file format for music and audio. Even though a device may be known as an MP3 player, many of these devices can play other audio formats such as WMA, Windows Media Audio, AAC Advanced Audio Coding, and other audio formats.

Smart Phones: A Smart Phone is a cellular telephone that can do similar functions to a personal computer. A Smart Phone can download and run software programs that can store, display or play E-Books and Digital Audio Book files.

A Summary of Device Accessibility:

• The only device that can access all the different materials the library provides is a PC running Microsoft Windows. If you have a desktop or laptop computer with Windows XP, Vista, 7 or 8 you can download, read or listen to any file in the library’s collection.

• Most tablets and e-readers can access the Adobe E-Pub books

• Only Amazon Kindle devices or Kindle Apps on Tablets can use the Kindle Books (KMZ Files).

• Non-Apple MP3 players for example Sandisk, Sony, or Philips MP3 players are the best portable devices for downloading and listening to digital Audio Books. You will need a personal computer with the Internet to download the Audio Books and then transfer them to your MP3 player.

• With most E-Readers that use E-ink instead of full color screens you must have a computer with internet access to download the E-Books and then transfer them to your reader through a USB cable.

• New Tablets with Windows 8( RT Edition) cannot use WMA Windows Media Audio files at this time.
4. Who Can Use the Central Arkansas Library’s E-Library Branch?

- Residents of Pulaski or Perry Counties who have a library card with the Central Arkansas Library System (CALS).
- If you have a library card with CALS, you must also know your four-digit pin number.
- Patron’s library cards must not be expired or have fines or fees exceeding $5.00.
- Residents of other counties in Arkansas who participate in the Gateway program and have a library card with CALS.

5. What is the Gateway Program?

The Gateway Program was established to allow people who live in many parts of Arkansas to have privileges at libraries outside their own library system. Patrons must have a library card in good standing in their home library system. Patrons apply for Gateway cards at their participating home library. The Gateway card by itself does not automatically give access to other libraries. After getting a Gateway card patrons must then go in person to the library they want to join with their Gateway card to apply for a membership to the other library.

The following counties participate in the Gateway program: Bradley, Chicot, Clark, Cleveland, Conway, Dallas, Desha, Drew, Faulkner, Garland, Grant, Hot Springs, Jackson, Jefferson, Lincoln, Lonoke, Montgomery, Perry, Pike, Polk, Pope, Prairie, Pulaski, Saline, Van Buren, and White Counties.

At this time patrons who have a membership to CALS through the Gateway program can access the digital materials from CALS E-Library Branch. However, this may not always be the case, depending on the permission of use by the publisher’s of the books under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. In other words at some point anyone outside Pulaski/Perry county may not be able to use the E-Library materials even with a Gateway card. If or until that happens, CALS is happy to provide digital materials to all our patrons and will try to continue to do so.


When the library purchases a physical book it belongs to the library and to the community of that library. The book can be checked out until the book wears out. Digital books are not under the same copyright laws as traditional books. The publishing industry places more restrictions on digital books and how libraries can distribute digital materials. This is why there are more restrictions on which electronic devices can access certain materials, or how the materials can be used. It is the desire of the Central Arkansas Library System to have all our materials available to as many of our patrons as possible.

For Additional Assistance: Phone Line: 501-918-3097 E-mail: eLibrary@cals.org
7. Why Can’t You Just Download Any Book In Your Library Catalog?

That would be awesome to have a digital copy of every book we ever purchased in our entire collection. However, that is not the way it works. We have to purchase E-Books just like a traditional book. Each digital copy of a book is just like a traditional book in our collection. If we purchase five copies of a digital book and five people check out those copies they are inaccessible until someone “returns” a copy early or their check out period expires. The advantage of E-Books is that the books are always returned on time.

8. Why Do Public Libraries Not Have Certain Books In Digital Format?

Unfortunately, several major book publishers refuse to sell digital materials to public libraries. Other major publishers put heavy restrictions on digital materials like time limits on the number of check outs before the E-Book stops working. Other publishing companies have inflated the prices they charge for digital materials to public libraries by up to 200 % above the retail price We ask that you go to the following website and fill out the petition to try to help us encourage publishers to change these practices. www.ebooksforlibraries.com

9. What Is An Adobe ID?

Adobe is the company that controls the license distribution of E-Books. To ensure that E-Books are being disturbed legally, each patron must have an Adobe ID. An Adobe ID must be provided before patrons can use the software to access digital materials with the library.

10. Where Can I Get Help If I Need It?

You can contact your local library branch in our system and make an appointment for assistance. You can also call the library’s E-library help line 501-918-3097 or you can e-mail us at eLibrary@cals.org.