

Got Your Card Handy? This Library Will Let You Check Out Bikes for Free

THE INITIATIVE IS PART OF A TREND WHERE RENTING A BIKE TO GET AROUND TOWN IS JUST AS EASY AS BORROWING A BOOK.

BY GABRIELLE HONDORP

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AlexSavaGetty Images

- An [Ohio library](#) has launched its own bike share program, allowing members to take out bicycles using their library cards.
- The bike rentals are free, with [helmets](#) and [locks](#) also available at no cost.
- The initiative is part of a growing trend where libraries are getting involved in bike share programs.

If you find yourself in Lorain, Ohio, and have the urge to ride, try heading to the local library.

The [Lorain Public Library](#) collaborated with county health and parks departments to launch its Go Lorain Bike Share program this past May,

and the initiative in another step in a growing trend where renting a bike to get around town is just as easy as borrowing a book.

That's because unlike most bike share programs, this one in Lorain is free and allows people to check out bikes with their library card. Helmets and locks are also available at no cost.

“We are thrilled that this program will include elements of travel and tourism and healthy living. It's a win-win for everyone involved,” Jennifer Bracken, assistant director of Lorain County Metro Parks, told the *Morning Journal* newspaper.

The program aims to provide more options of active transportation to its residents, no matter their income, and to create a safe and supportive community for those who already bike or walk frequently.

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Because Lorain doesn't have many bike lanes, community leaders are aiming to increase the visibility of the biking population by installing Go Lorain bike racks across the town.

Should the bikes need maintenance that will be taken care of by a group that employs young adults aged 16-24 and teaches them how to properly use hand and power tools.

“We are so proud to be part of the Go Lorain bike share, because it demonstrates the power of collaboration bring[ing] new ideas and possibilities to the community,” said [Library System Director Anastasia Diamond-Ortiz](#).

The bikes are available for checkout when the library opens and must be returned before closing—the only cost is if a bike, helmet, or lock is lost or stolen, in which case whomever checked it out will be responsible.

A free bike share is something we can get behind, and you may be pleased to find that there may be a library bike share near you. Growing in popularity thanks to increased concern for the environment and public health, they are popping up across the U.S.

As Michigan school librarians disappear, this program allows teachers to fill in

BY [KOBY LEVIN](#) - AUGUST 22, 2019



PHOTO: *Brian Peck*

The library at Osborn High School lacks a librarian, like many schools statewide.

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Amid a sharp decline in the number of Michigan school librarians, a new program was started this summer to use teachers to help fill those roles.

The Experimental School Library Media Specialist program allows already certified teachers to be recognized by the state as school librarians after they've taken just five additional classes, or 15 credits, at Wayne State University in Detroit.

The number of full-time certified librarians in Michigan has dropped sharply in recent years. [Only 8 percent of schools have a librarian today; the figure has declined roughly 73 percent since 2000.](#)

The number of people trained to be librarians has fallen sharply, too, so much so that librarians are on the state's "critical shortage" list even as the number of available jobs shrinks.

The program's [website](#) says impending retirements among the remaining librarians will open up jobs to new librarians.

The program was granted temporary permission from the Michigan Department of Education to allow teachers to add a new area of expertise in less time than usual. Teachers are typically required to take 20 credits in order to add a new area of expertise. Programs like this one could find themselves in hot demand if three bills focused on school libraries become law this year. The bills would require every school in the state to

have a library with a librarian, a process that could take years given the small number of people currently certified as librarians.

This is not the state's only effort to combat educator shortages by reducing credentialing requirements. With districts in some areas struggling to hire teachers, lawmakers allowed for new teachers to lead classrooms after taking 300 hours of online classes.

Brian Peck, a spanish teacher at Osborn High School in Michigan, enrolled in the Wayne State program hoping to expand the library services offered at his school.

Three years ago, volunteers renovated his school library. But the new shelves were left empty, so teachers at the school asked the community to send books.

Donations flooded in, but Peck and other teachers, busy with their responsibilities, didn't have time to organize them or sift out books that wouldn't be useful. The school doesn't have a librarian of any kind, state data shows.

Earlier this month — three years after the initial donations — Peck and a few volunteers finally got around to finishing up the task.

“One of the biggest problems I see with not having a librarian is that so many of our precious resources go unused or fall into disrepair because no one manages them,” he said.

He'd like to spend more time in the library — perhaps using the credential (he hasn't yet completed the program) to work as a librarian for one hour a day — but he's not sure the district can afford to give him a break from teaching.

“Until there's more pressure on school districts to have librarians, I don't think a lot of people in this program are going to have much success finding a job,” he said.

By Koby Levin [@LEVIN_KOBY](#) KLEVIN@CHALKBEAT.ORG

ebook sales decrease by 4.5% in the first quarter of 2019

June 17, 2019 By Michael Kozlowski

In the first three months of 2019, digital book sales have fallen by 4.5% and generated \$244 million dollars, which was \$10 million dollars less from the same period last year. The continuous decline in ebook sales has been occurring for the past four years.

There are a few causes why ebook sales have fallen off a cliff. One of the leading factors is due to the rise of digital audiobooks catching on like wildfire. In the first three months of the year the format increased by 35% and it brought in a respectable \$133 million dollars. The same time last year audiobooks generated \$98 million dollars in sales, so you can see how people are listening to audiobooks more than ever before.

The decline in ebooks is good for the traditional print industry. Hardcover book sales saw a 7.8% (\$594 million) increase in revenue and paperback sales saw a respectable 3.1% (\$553.6 million).

Reading in general has been growing this year, which is a good sign that bookstores and online retailers are doing well. In the first quarter of 2019, publisher net revenue for trade books, including sales to bookstores, wholesalers, direct to consumer and online retailers was \$1.6 billion, an increase of 5.7%.

Table 2. Number and percentage distribution of library media centers that reported having full-time or part-time, state-certified, paid professional library media center specialists, by state: 2011–12

State	Number of library media centers that had			Percentage distribution of library media centers that had		
	At least one full-time, paid, state-certified library media center specialist	No full-time and at least one part-time, paid, state-certified library media center specialist	No full-time or part-time, paid, state-certified library media center specialist	At least one full-time, paid, state-certified library media center specialist	No full-time and at least one part-time, paid, state-certified library media center specialist	No full-time or part-time, paid, state-certified library media center specialist
United States	53,940	10,260	16,990	66.4	12.6	20.9
Alabama	1,200	‡	40 !	96.4	‡	3.0 !
Alaska	110	40 !	230	29.7	11.5 !	58.7
Arizona	730	100 !	780	45.3	6.0 !	48.7
Arkansas	820	70 !	‡	89.3	8.2 !	‡
California	2,080	1,750	4,440	25.2	21.1	53.7
Colorado	880	220	430	57.7	14.2	28.0
Connecticut	630	150	170	66.3	15.4	18.2
Delaware	140	‡	40 !	75.9	‡	22.8
District of Columbia	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Florida	2,420	260 !	510	75.8	8.3 !	15.9
Georgia	2,160	‡	70 !	93.7	‡	3.0 !
Hawaii	160 !	#	‡	67.3 !	#	‡
Idaho	290	80 !	270	45.8	12.5	41.6
Illinois	2,000	370	1,330	54.0	10.1	35.9
Indiana	1,150	290	260	67.6	17.2	15.2
Iowa	670	360	90 !	59.8	32.1	8.1 !
Kansas	880	190	130	73.6	15.7	10.7
Kentucky	1,090	90 !	110 !	84.5	6.8 !	8.7 !
Louisiana	960	‡	210	81.0	‡	17.8
Maine	260	130	180	44.9	23.1	32.0
Maryland	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Massachusetts	720	110 !	500	54.3	7.9 !	37.8
Michigan	1,180	710	990	41.1	24.7	34.2
Minnesota	960	360	260	61.0	22.7	16.3
Mississippi	800	‡	‡	92.1	‡	‡

See notes at end of table.

Table 2. Number and percentage distribution of library media centers that reported having full-time or part-time, state-certified, paid professional library media center specialists, by state: 2011–12—Continued

State	Number of library media centers that had			Percentage distribution of library media centers that had		
	At least one full-time, paid, state-certified library media center specialist	No full-time and at least one part-time, paid, state-certified library media center specialist	No full-time or part-time, paid, state-certified library media center specialist	At least one full-time, paid, state-certified library media center specialist	No full-time and at least one part-time, paid, state-certified library media center specialist	No full-time or part-time, paid, state-certified library media center specialist
Missouri	1,470	220	160	79.7	11.8	8.6
Montana	360	140	‡	68.2	25.7	‡
Nebraska	510	220	60 !	64.7	27.7	7.6 !
Nevada	420	‡	90	80.8	‡	17.8
New Hampshire	270	‡	70 !	73.1	‡	19.7 !
New Jersey	1,890	130 !	250	83.0	5.9 !	11.1
New Mexico	440	‡	230 !	62.3	‡	33.0
New York	3,050	410	420	78.6	10.6	10.8
North Carolina	2,120	‡	140	90.8	‡	6.2
North Dakota	220	90	20 !	68.0	25.9	6.1 !
Ohio	2,000	500	630	63.9	16.1	20.1
Oklahoma	1,130	300	‡	76.6	20.3	‡
Oregon	390	270	510	33.2	23.1	43.7
Pennsylvania	2,340	410	260 !	77.9	13.6	8.5 !
Rhode Island	190	80	‡	68.5	27.7	‡
South Carolina	1,040	‡	‡	90.8	‡	‡
South Dakota	150	120	120	37.9	30.7	31.4
Tennessee	1,630	‡	‡	97.6	‡	‡
Texas	5,770	500	1,160	77.7	6.7	15.6
Utah	460	‡	360	53.6	‡	42.2
Vermont	150	100	20 !	55.5	37.2	7.3 !
Virginia	1,850	‡	20 !	96.9	‡	1.0 !
Washington	1,060	210	440	61.8	12.4	25.8
West Virginia	350	40 !	260	54.1	‡	40.0
Wisconsin	1,060	670	130 !	57.0	36.2	6.8 !
Wyoming	180	50 !	80	58.4	15.2 !	26.4

Rounds to zero.

! Interpret data with caution. The coefficient of variation (CV) for this estimate is between 30 percent and 50 percent (i.e., the standard error is at least 30 percent and less than 50 percent of the estimate).

‡ Reporting standards not met. The coefficient of variation (CV) for this estimate is 50 percent or greater (i.e., the standard error is 50 percent or more of the estimate) or the response rate is below 50 percent.

NOTE: The 2011–12 Schools and Staffing Survey did not collect school library media center data from private schools. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS), "Public School Library Media Center Data File," 2011–12.