

THE NEWS *of* ORANGE COUNTY

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At the Library: OCPL can help you get ready for school

*By Erin Hils Shepherd
Orange County Public Library*

Summer's nearly over, and kids head back to school next week! Orange County Public Library is a great place to visit—in person and online—to study and do research this school year.

The library offers resources for students at every level and comfortable workspaces. Librarians are available to help with research, find books and suggest popular reading lists.

Use the free wi-fi, or sign-on to one of the public computers to access our online resources.

Working from home? No problem—just grab your library card and visit the OCPL Online Resources page at www.orangecountync.gov/library/onlineresources.asp.

OCPL's free databases are geared towards helping students with English papers, science or math homework, learning a foreign language, and more. The following list is just a sampling of the databases, which are just a library card away.

CultureGrams provides concise, reliable, and up-to-date reports on more than 200 countries, each U.S. state, and all 13 Canadian provinces and territories

Transparent Languages includes pronunciation, speech, grammar, writing, and vocabulary building lessons for more than 80 languages.

Tutor.com helps students with homework, test prep (including college entrance exams), etc.

ABC-CLIO E-book Collection is history & literature eBooks to help with research papers and projects.

Academic Search Complete includes magazines and journals on many subjects, including peer-reviewed and scholarly works.

Biography Reference Center offers more than 461,000 full-text biographies.

LearningExpress Library provides online classes for the SAT, ACT and GED preparation as well as practice tests for the ASVAB, AP exams, grad school entrance exams and more.

Points of View shares essays on nearly 300 topics that present multiple sides of a current issue.

Librarian-recommended websites include:

- www.oxfordowl.co.uk for reading and math activities;
- www.starfall.com to learn to read with phonics;

- www.aplusmath.com for interactive math skills practice; and
- <http://bensguide.gpo.gov> for information for K-12 students on how government works.

Need help with science experiments? These are favorite titles:

- “101 Great Science Experiments” by Neil Ardley;
- “I’m a Scientist in the Kitchen” by Lisa Burke; and
- “Backyard Science” by Chris Maynard.

Interested in homeschooling? Go to www.ncdnpe.org.

Popular library staff members move on

Kevin Delaney is a familiar face to OCPL customers. The tall, bespectacled gentleman, always quick to smile or laugh, has been a fixture at the library for 18 years. He retires at the end of August.

“While his retirement is most certainly deserved, he will be missed by his colleagues and library customers,” said OCPL Director Lucinda Munger.

Also a musician, for years Kevin strummed his guitar and crooned at the library’s story times to the delight of the children. He plans on spending his retirement traveling, taking care of his cats and gardening. The next time you’re at the Main Library in Hillsborough, stop in and wish Kevin well.

Last week, the library also said goodbye to Louise Bendall of Youth Services. Louise led many a lively story time during the last four years at the Main Library. She recently earned a Masters in Library Science from North Carolina Central University and will now be the media specialist at the Frank Porter Graham Bilingüe School in Chapel Hill.

Friends of the Library paver sale underway

The Friends of the Orange County Public Library are selling pavers now through Nov. 1.

Pavers are a great way to honor a loved one, remember a pet, celebrate a life event, or represent your business, church or community organization. They will be installed in front of the OCPL Main Library.

Funds raised from the sale will be used to enhance library services, programs and collections. For more information and to order pavers, check out www.orangecountync.gov/library/pavers.asp.

The OCPL Main Library is located at 137 W. Margaret Lane in Hillsborough. Check out OCPL online at www.orangecountync.gov/library.