

# THE NEWS *of* ORANGE COUNTY

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## *At the Library: Library offers an array of new services*

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*[Editor's note: This is the second of a two-part series on new library services. The July 9 column highlighted eBook and video game collections.]*

Neil Gaiman said, “Google can bring you back 100,000 answers; a librarian can bring you back the right one.”

With the vast amount of information available online, it would seem a Google search is all that’s needed to find the information we seek today. And oftentimes, these sorts of search engines are effective and convenient tools for self-guided searching.

But the flip side to accessing large volumes of information is that help can be needed to glean through and make sense of it all.

How do you know if the information you’ve found is reliable and the sources trustworthy? What if you need more in-depth answers than your search has yielded? What if you simply can’t find what you’re looking for?

Sometimes what’s truly needed is the personal touch of a trained professional who can cheerfully guide and help you.

That’s why we’re offering personalized library assistance with the following services. By meeting or talking with a librarian, you will discover new resources, build new skills and perhaps even be surprised by what your library has available to help you.

### **Chat with a librarian**

Can’t make it to the library to speak with a librarian? That’s not a problem.

Connect online directly with an OCPL librarian any time the library is open—and the OCPL main library is open seven days a week—no matter where you are. If we are busy or closed, a North Carolina librarian will step in to answer your questions.

To access the chat service, go to [www.orangecountync.gov/library](http://www.orangecountync.gov/library). Look in the lower, right-hand corner of the screen for the button that says “Need Help? Chat with a librarian now!”

Not online? The OCPL main library is open seven days a week: Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. Call 919-245-2525 to speak with a librarian.

## **Book-a-Librarian**

For those questions that you want in-depth help with, you can schedule a one-on-one appointment with a librarian at a time that works for you. These sessions are held in the OCPL main library and run from 30 minutes to an hour.

Learn about computers, how to use your tablet or smartphone, or the ins and outs of downloading eBooks; apply for jobs or improve your resume; search for ancestors; set up a Facebook or email account; receive research or homework assistance; and more.

To reserve your time, complete and submit an online form at [www.orangecountync.gov/library/book.asp](http://www.orangecountync.gov/library/book.asp). Or pick up a paper form at the Information Desk located on the library's second floor.

## **Your Next 5**

We've got your information searching needs covered at the library. What if you're simply looking to discover a new book? That's exactly what Your Next 5 is designed to do.

Complete and submit an online form at [www.orangecountync.gov/library/next5form.asp](http://www.orangecountync.gov/library/next5form.asp) or pick up a paper form at the Information Desk.

On this form, tell us about books you've enjoyed and disliked. Share what formats—eBook, audiobook, large print, etc.—you prefer. And let us know some of your favorite genres.

Based on your preferences, a librarian will then select and send you five personalized reading suggestions within one week.

*The OCPL Main Library is located at 137 W. Margaret Lane in Hillsborough. Free parking is available in the Eno River Parking Deck. For more information, go to [www.orangecountync.gov/library](http://www.orangecountync.gov/library) or [www.facebook.com/ocnclibrary](http://www.facebook.com/ocnclibrary).*