

# THE NEWS *of* ORANGE COUNTY

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## *At the Library: Check out what the library has to offer*

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*[Editor's note: The first of this two-part series appeared in the July 10, 2013, edition of The News of Orange County.]*

Libraries aren't simply just repositories for books any more. These days, libraries such as the Orange County Public Library, also offer movies, music, spaces to gather and connect, computer access, and entertaining programs. Here are some of the surprising items, resources and experiences that you may not have realized are available at OCPL. All that is required to take advantage of these offerings is a current OCPL library card.

### **LEGO**

On the second Tuesday of each month, dozens of children between ages six and 11 years old come together at the OCPL Main Library to build their very own LEGO creations. Though the colorful, plastic bricks are not available for checkout, the kids enjoy playing with them and exercising their creativity in the library. The LEGO program is just one of the many programs and activities offered for children ages zero to 11 years old at OCPL.

### **Genealogy research**

Ancestry.com is a popular online collection of census, birth, death and marriage records. Ancestry.com also requires a subscription fee. Next time you need to research your family tree, visit the OCPL Main Library or the OCPL Carrboro Branch Library to use Ancestry.com for free on library computers.

### **Test preparation assistance**

High school and college test prep services can be expensive and sometimes even unaffordable. The LearningExpress Library provides free, online classes and practice exams for a host of major tests like the SAT, ACT and the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. GED preparation, as well as practice tests for high school AP exams, graduate school entrance exams (GRE, LSAT, MCAT, PCAT, GMAT) and more are available with your OCPL library card.

### **Clubs and groups**

With a Teen Club, Evening Book Club and a Knitting/Crochet Group, you can meet people with interests similar to yours on a regular basis at OCPL.

### **Consumer Reports**

Thinking of buying a car, appliance, electronic or other consumer good? Read the trusted articles, ratings, reviews and recommendations from Consumer Reports magazine. Articles date back to 1985 and are accessible online.

### **Online Video Collection**

The Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) has produced high-quality, award-winning shows and series for decades. Through OCPL, you can access many of the most popular PBS series for free. Online videos include Ken Burns' award-winning American history series on the Civil War, World War II, Baseball, Jazz, and more. Other series like Masterpiece Theater, Scientific American, American Experience are both entertaining and educational.

## **Investment Info**

The Morningstar Investment Research Center offers individual investors expertly written, in-depth stock and fund reports. It also provides return information on various investment indexes, sectors, and industries.

## **eBooks**

The way people read books is changing and OCPL is keeping up with the latest trends. Through the library's OverDrive service, you can download eBooks to read on your Kindle, NOOK, iPad, computer or mobile device. eBooks are lent for 2-week periods.

Please visit [www.orangecountync.gov/library](http://www.orangecountync.gov/library) for:

- more information on how to get a library card
- details about the library's extensive collections and programs
- a complete list of all online resources

Orange County Public Library serves the community from three locations: the OCPL Main Library at 137 W. Margaret Lane in Hillsborough, the OCPL Carrboro Branch Library in McDougle Middle School, and the OCPL Cybrary in the Century Center in Carrboro.