

Sonoma County Library Has Exciting Online Resources!

This is one of a series of articles provided by the Oakmont Technology Learning Center on the use of technology by seniors.

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Many Oakmonters have Sonoma County Library cards to check out books. What may not be as widely known are their electronic FREE resources. Did you know that their website offers a wide variety of electronic resources to access from the comfort of your home using a computer and, in many cases, a smartphone or tablet? You'll just need your library card to get started.

The easiest way to get to these resources is to go to the library's website: sonomalibrary.org. On the top bar of the page, click on "Online Resources". When this page opens, on the left is "Research", then click on "A-Z list of e-Resources." An entire list of the nearly 100 resources will appear, in alphabetical order. The resources include newspapers, tutorials, streaming resources, and much more.

Usually you enter your library card number and pin number for access. Sometimes you'll be asked to create an account for that online resource. After this, you're in and the fun begins! Going down the A-Z listing of e-resources, look at the "more info" for each resource because this tells you HOW to logon. To highlight a few online resources that might interest Oakmonters:

- Consumer Reports. The full text and more of this favorite consumer-oriented magazine that provides unbiased product testing and ratings along with consumer education.
- CreativeBug. High quality instructional videos on a wide variety of arts and craft topics--drawing, sewing, quilting, knitting, jewelry making, etc. You get the picture.
- DMV. Online practice tests and manuals.
- FreeGal Music. A streaming music service with access to 15 million+ songs from over 40,000 labels" from over 100 countries.
- Get SetUp. Designed for adults 55+, over 350 classes taught online in so many different categories--art, business, communication, cooking, etc. Date and time for each online class is given.
- Great Courses, Library Collection. Over 250 video courses, led by the world's top experts, covering a broad range of subjects, such as science, mathematics, philosophy, history, literature, fine arts and music, travel, business, and personal development.
- Hoopla or Kanopy. Wide variety of streaming films, series, and documentary selections for check-out for a number of days and a limited number of times per month.
- Kovels. The go-to source for expert information, pricing, and trends on antiques and collectibles. Time to check those items stashed away in the attic to see if they're valuable!
- Mango Language. A major language-learning service that features over 70 languages - learn by sentence construction, hearing native speakers and doing voice comparisons.

- New York Times (Newspaper) Remote Access. Access the New York Times for 72 hours free pass, when that time runs out just sign-in again!
- Press Democrat. Our local newspaper - all online!
- San Francisco Chronicle via News Bank. The newspaper of the San Francisco Bay area.
- Value Line. Investment research on companies, industries, markets, and economies. Expert analysis and guidance.
- The Wall Street Journal. 24/7 access news coverage from the journal's website.
- Washington Post. 24/7 online access to the latest news coverage from The Washington Post website."

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