WE’RE HERE FOR YOU!

The Otsego District Library is here to serve our community. Following are some exciting things that the library is offering:

- The Library is FINE FREE - You will no longer be charged overdue fines!
- New Collections: The library added TV Shows and Classic Fiction sections.
- Open library hours for you to pick out books and use library services.
- Drive-Thru Pickup Window: Staff will pull your reserves and have them ready for you to pick up.
- Book Packs to Go! Use the library’s website to request staff to build custom book packs for your family.
- On-line services for reading, research, schoolwork, and so much more!
- Virtual programs available through social media.
- Take & Make Craft Kits for kids and teens.
- Extended Wi-Fi in our parking lot.
- Coming Soon – Reading Booster Packs to help raise confident readers.

Check out the library’s Facebook page or website (www.otsegolibrary.org) for all of the details and updates.

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AND SO MUCH MORE!
ABC Storytime
Wednesdays via Facebook, Instagram, and otsegolibrary.org

September 16 – November 25
Ages 0 - 5

ABC and all the way to Z... alphabet letters will be the star of each week! Miss Diane will focus on one letter of the alphabet with books and a song featuring that letter.

After you listen to the Storytime, you can pick up a kit to make a craft out of the letter of the week at our Drive-Thru Pickup Window.

STEAM @ Home
Tuesdays via Facebook, Instagram, and otsegolibrary.org
Grades K - 5
September 15 – November 24

Join Miss Alicia online to learn more about Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. See how learning can be fun! Take home kits will be available some of the weeks at the Drive-Thru Pickup Window if applicable.

Take & Make
Kids’ Craft Kits
Preschool - 5th Grade

Each month you will be able to pick up a seasonal themed craft kit. Supplies and instructions will be included. Kits will be available throughout the entire month at our drive-thru pickup window.

September – Fall
October – Halloween
November – Thanksgiving
December - Holiday
Percy Jackson Virtual Escape Room
Grades 6 - 12

Ever wondered what it would be like to go on a quest like Percy Jackson and his demigod friends? Here's your chance!

Compete individually or with your friends to complete the Percy Jackson Escape Room.

Navigate your way through the Labyrinth, meet the mystical Calypso, and test your skills as a hero. Can you escape all three levels to get back to Camp Half-Blood?

Details will be on Facebook, Instagram, and otsegolibrary.org.
Take & Make
Monthly Crafts Kits
Grades 6 - 12

Pick up a seasonal craft kit each month from the Drive-Thru Pickup Window at the library. Each craft kit will include supplies and instructions for teen themed crafts.

Virtual Photo Contest
Grades 6 - 12

Do you love photography? Get creative and flex your photo skills and enter your best image into our Virtual Photo Contest.

Take your pictures on your smartphone or camera. All images submitted must be the work of the individual submitting them. It is the entrant’s responsibility to ensure that any images submitted have been taken with the permission of the subject and do not infringe upon the copyright of any third party. Send entries to jbeattie@otsegolibrary.org to be uploaded to our Facebook photo album. Cast your votes by liking your favorite photo(s) and the top three images with the most likes will win awesome prizes!

Play Animal Crossing
New Horizons with Us!
2nd & 4th Wednesday at 4 PM
Grades 6 - 12

Get your Nintendo Switch or Switch Lite and play with the library staff each month! We will be posting Dodo Codes on Facebook, Instagram, and otsegolibrary.org.

Pizza & Pages
Teen & Tween Book Club via Zoom
4th Tuesday at 4 PM
September 22, October 27, November 24, and December 22

Join us each month via Zoom to discuss what you’ve just read or are currently reading. Access will be posted on our website and via Facebook/Instagram. Attend all FOUR meetings and the library will have a pizza delivered to you for FREE!

Fictitious Dishes
Literary Inspired Recipes
All Ages

Have you ever wondered how to create an iconic dish from your favorite novel? Join us online each month for recipes inspired by your favorite Adult, Young Adult, and Children's books.

Cooking videos will be posted on TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, and otsegolibrary.org.
All About Farm Animals

Monthly via Facebook, Instagram, and otsegolibrary.org

All Ages

The library is very fortunate to have a director who also has a hobby farm! In these fun videos, Andrea will focus on different farm animals each month explaining how to care for them and some fun facts about the animals. Some of the animals that will be featured are chickens, pigs, goats, llamas, cows, and more!

How-To Instructional Videos

The library is partnering with local businesses and professionals to help you learn some fun and necessary new skills. How-To videos will include: vehicle maintenance, cooking with flair, creating a beautiful floral bouquet, braided hairstyles, pet care, DIY home repair, and so much more!

How To Videos will be posted on Facebook, Instagram, and otsegolibrary.org.

How to Help Parents Cope

A very special “How-To” video to help parents in the community deal with the many issues they are facing.

Andrea Estelle, our director and a parent herself, will interview a local social worker, to get insights into how parents can help themselves and their children cope with the many changes occurring during this trying time.

This video will be posted on Facebook, Instagram, and otsegolibrary.org.
Book Packs To Go

Would you like a library staff member to pick out books for you or your child? Go to the library’s website and click on the “Book Packs to Go” link to submit a request form.

You can list your interests or genre’s you prefer and a staff member will choose up to 10 books that they feel you will enjoy. Do you like a certain genre or want to learn more about a certain subject? Does your child like dinosaurs or fairies? Staff member(s) will choose books to match that subject. The library will put them on hold for you to be able to pick up at our Drive-Thru Pickup Window.

Rising Reader Activity Kits

We are VERY excited to announce a new upcoming collection at ODL: Rising Reader Activity Kits! These are packs families will be able to check out that have phonics sets of books, games, flashcards, puzzles, and reading activities in them to help kids learn to read/improve their reading skills! The kits are based on the areas of vocabulary, phonics, comprehension, fluency, and phonemic awareness and are full of fun activities for families to do together.

There will be multiple kits for preschool through third grade! Rising Reader Kits require parental supervision and are not for children under 3 due to choking hazards in some of the game pieces. These kits were brought to us by the generous memorial donation of Albert Hoekstra.

The library staff is busy preparing and cataloging the kits for use! Watch Facebook for the announcement that these kits are out on the library shelves ready for your family to use to work on your reading skills at home!

Hoekstra Memorial Announcement

Recently, Albert Hoekstra left Otsego District Library a legacy memorial donation of $15,000. We are sincerely appreciative that Albert included our library in his memorial giving and wanted to let the community know what a huge impact this will make for our library and community!

Here are some of the exciting ways this donation will improve our library as well as provide new resources for our community:

- 2 Coated Metal Picnic tables for under the front shade tree with memorial plates. Patrons can utilize the library Wi-Fi outdoors and read/study outside.
- New patron chairs throughout the building
- Updated furniture in the teen/tween room and future Makerspace
- Add to Large Prints collection (some of Florence’s – Albert’s wife – favorite authors per her reading history)
- Build up the Classics collection (a new collection for ODL’s literary classics)
- Preschool - 3rd grade “Rising Reader Activity Kits”

It is so incredible that Albert’s legacy will be building the minds of countless future readers and a promoting literacy in future generation as well as improving our library space and collection!
OverDrive Media Console

Have a smartphone or tablet? We've got an app that will let you borrow digital ebooks, audiobooks, movies, and shows from the library – for free! Overdrive works with 36,000+ partners around the world to offer users 24/7 access to eBooks, digital audiobooks, and streaming videos.

Libby

OverDrive Media Console has a sister app called Libby. New features and a cleaner design allows patrons to check out eBooks and eAudios more smoothly and without authorization on devices.

Find out more at otsegolibrary.org/overdrive-libby

Rocket Languages

Rocket Languages is an award-winning interactive online language learning system.

The system allows patrons to learn conversational language at their own pace. Popular features on Rocket Languages: Interactive Audio Lessons, Language & Culture Lessons, Reinforcement Activities, Voice Recognition, Easy Learning, Learning Support, and Motivational Tools.

Learn more at otsegolibrary.org/rocket

Hoopla

Hoopla is a digital media service that allows you to borrow movies, music, audiobooks, ebooks, comics, and TV shows to enjoy on your computer, tablet, or phone! All you need is your device and library card to get started.

Find out more at otsegolibrary.org/hoopla

MeL eResources

The Michigan eLibrary (MeL) is a statewide service of the Library of Michigan. MeL works with the Midwest Collaborative for Library Services to provide MeL services.

There are a ton of amazing databases that you can access from home. These resources cover a variety of topics that cover auto repair, scholastic educational courses, career exploration, and so much more!

Find out more at otsegolibrary.org/mel-eresources

WOWbrary

Get a sneak peek of the latest library materials! These weekly newsletters will showcase item covers, descriptions, popularity, ratings, and/or reviews for the preponderance of new book, DVDs, music CDs, audiobooks, eBooks, and eAudios.

Sign up today at otsegolibrary.org/wowbrary
September is Library Card Sign-up Month - Get A Library Card Online

Local residents can now sign-up for a Otsego District Public Library card by submitting their information online at otsegolibrary.org/getalibrarycard. Residents of the Otsego District Public Library legal service area may apply.

The library's legal service area consists of Alamo Township, Otsego City, Otsego Township, Trowbridge Township, and Watson Township. Digital services are available to resident patrons who are within our legal service area.

Not in our service area? Non-Residents can apply for an Otsego District Public Library card with an established account from one of the surrounding reciprocal libraries: Allegan Public Library, Kalamazoo Public Library, JC Wheeler Public Library (Martin), Parchment Community Library, Ransom District Library (Plainwell), and the Van Buren District Library. Check with your home library to access digital services.

Your Otsego District Public Library card provides access to our digital collection which includes eBooks and Audiobooks via Hoopla and OverDrive/Libby apps, eMagazines via RB Digital, language learning via Rocket Languages, and access to our online services including databases through MeL.

A patron library card entitles the cardholder to use the services of the Otsego District Library and are subject to the rules and procedures of the library according to the Borrowing Policy.

Library Roof Update

The library roof was damaged in an April hailstorm, with over 1,000 holes! Since April, insurance has covered some very extensive repairs and complete replacement of the roof: the entire roof has been replaced by Division 7, some HVAC units have been replaced, while others were repaired, interior HVAC ventilation insulation has been repaired, the doorway in the teen room had been ruined and was repaired, the carpets were cleaned, interior ceiling tiles have been inspected and replaced.

In the end, 21 water damaged books were requested to be reimbursed for replacement. (It was very fortunate that the library's interior contents were quickly wrapped in plastic following the damage to prevent any further damage to the library collection.) Between the library director and library's maintenance man, over 80 staff hours have gone into facilitating and implementing repairs, which also were billed to insurance.

The work that remains is still daunting: the skylights are all damaged and need to be replaced. These skylights are structural and the quotes came in high. As of the writing of this newsletter, we are awaiting the word on insurance to get this repair going. All the skylights will need to be custom cut and the work on these could likely cause a library service interruption of some sort. Other work still to be done is replacement of the carpeting that did not come clean - in the back work space and Early Literacy Center, where water heavily came into the building, and cleaning of the leak from the skylight onto the roof of the Early Literacy Center.

We have been fortunate to work with a great roofing company (Division 7) and insurance company (Burnham and Flower) through this process and are thankful that the library roof is now solid and will protect our facility and collection for years to come.
We’re Here for You!

In January, I wrote my Director letter about how the library can help us to have confidence in ourselves and our abilities. It was a happy letter, excited about the potential of another new year at ODL. This year flipped us in a direction we did not expect, due to navigating Covid-19 and the hail damage to the roof! We were sad as a library to be closed, we wanted smiles, book displays, programs, and “normal” library service, but in this time of drive up windows, masks and PPE, sterile shelves, plexiglass dividers, and virtual programs, we are learning to adapt. We, as a library, are trying to navigate it all in the best interest of the health of our staff and community.

The community makes all these efforts worth it. We look at the wonderful people, from all walks of life, who use and love the library, visiting us every week at our drive-up window or coming in during open hours, and we know that as long as we remain here for you, we will get through this time. Whether you feel safer using our remote services or are excited to be back in the building, we are trying to offer what we can for you with safety in mind.

The Otsego District Public Library is so excited to go Fine Free for you this year as a way to thank you! The community is showing the library their love also, in the form of spoken and written encouragements, surprise donations, kindness, and flexibility. We hear the community saying “Thank you for being open” almost every day. Your support tells us that all the extra efforts we are putting in is all worth it! We’re here for you, and you can be confident in the fact that your library will continue to serve you in whatever ways we can.

Here’s to smooth sailing for the rest of 2020,
Andrea Estelle

“Autumn leaves don’t fall, they fly. They take their time and wander on this their only chance to soar.”

- Delia Owens -
Where the Crawdads Sing

Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library are not taking donations until Phase 5 (We are currently in Phase 4) of the library’s reopening plan. Please hold onto any and all book donations until we are able to accept them again.

Library Closings

Thanksgiving  November 26 - 28
Christmas       December 24 - 26
New Year        December 31 – January 1

Library Hours

Drive Thru Pickup Window
Monday - Friday  10 AM - 12 PM
               4 PM - 6 PM
Saturday       10 AM - 11 AM
               2 PM - 3 PM

Building
Monday - Friday  12 PM - 4 PM
Saturday       11 AM - 2 PM

“Autumn leaves don’t fall, they fly. They take their time and wander on this their only chance to soar.”

- Delia Owens -
Where the Crawdads Sing