

SEARCH BEYOND THE SHELVES

BROWSING RESOURCES

Accessing Digital Resources

For the best digital browsing experience, you will need an active Thousand Oaks Library card. If you don't have a library card, please sign up for a temporary card (which provides access to all of the Library's digital resources) at <https://search.tolibrary.org/selfreg>. Logging into online resources requires your library card number (beginning with 220) and PIN. The default PIN is the last 4 digits of the phone number on your account, but your PIN can be changed to any 4 digits. If you have difficulty logging in or need to reset your PIN, please call the Reference Desk at (805) 449-2660 (option 5), or email / text us at Ask a Librarian (<https://asktolnow.tolibrary.org/ask>).

Online Resources

The following online resources can help you find your new favorite read. The text in ***bold italic*** indicates the address for each website.

Thousand Oaks Library Catalog

<https://www.tolibrary.org>

You've probably used our Library catalog, but did you know it's also a great resource for browsing? Whether you're inside the Library, at home, or on the move, visit our catalog to:

- Search by keyword and filter by format, location, availability, collection, language, series, or subject heading (using the sidebar options)
- View and click on Novelist Select content (located at the end of each catalog record), such as
 - Books in This Series
 - Read-alikes (Similar Titles / Authors / Series)
 - Story Elements
 - Ratings & Reviews
 - Related Book Lists & Award Lists
- Keep track of borrowed titles with *Reading History* (Remember to opt-in on the *My Account* page to activate this feature.)
- Create, edit, save, and print lists of Library titles with *My Lists*

Novelist Plus & Novelist K-8 Plus

<https://www.tolibrary.org/virtual-library/reading-suggestions>

Looking for specific genres, subjects, or Lexile ranges? Novelist Plus and Novelist K-8 Plus provide wide-ranging recommendations for adult, teen, and young readers, along with great features like:

- Recommended Reads Lists for Fiction & Non-Fiction
- Advanced Search, where readers can find titles based on -
 - Genre
 - Themes
 - Series
 - Appeal Factors
 - Number of Pages
 - Lexile Range / Score
 - Accelerated Reader
 - Interest Level
 - Author's Nationality
 - Author's Gender Identity
 - Author's Cultural identity
 - Dewey Range
 - Publication Year
 - Review Available / Starred Review
 - Award Winner
 - Media Mentions
 - And more!
- Check Availability (an icon in each title description that shows if our Library owns the title and how many copies are currently available in various formats.)

- A free account that allows patrons to save searches, results, links to searches, and search alerts for future use.

While it has the same features as Novelist Plus, Novelist K-8 Plus focuses on books for readers in Kindergarten through 8th Grade.

Readers' Corner

<https://www.tolibrary.org/readers-corner>

Our newly-designed Readers' Corner has recommendations that link directly to our catalog, including:

- Lists of new print, audiovisual, ebook, and eAudio materials for adults, teens, and kids
- Current and past booklists created by Thousand Oaks librarians
- Staff Picks
- The New York Times Best Sellers Lists
- BookPage Online
- Reading Schedules for our Friendly & History Book Discussion Groups (meeting monthly on Zoom)
- Book Club in a Box titles (Choose from 60 book club kits, each with discussion questions and 10 copies of the selected title.)

Use *Suggest a Purchase* (in the left sidebar) to let us know about great titles the Library doesn't own yet.

Beanstack

<https://www.tolibrary.org/virtual-library/reading-suggestions>

Beanstack encourages readers of all ages with:

- Monthly, yearly, and topical Reading Challenges
- Reading Logs (recording time spent or titles read)
- Digital badges that celebrate reading / activity milestones
- Online Summer Reading Club 2021 (Join now through July 31st, complete activities, win badges, and enter raffles for great prizes!)
- Book recommendations based on age and reading interests

No time to sit at the computer? Take your Reading Challenges and Reading Logs anywhere with the Beanstack app (for iOS & Android).

WorldCat

<https://www.worldcat.org>

With this free catalog, anyone can search the libraries of the world. Use WorldCat to:

- Locate the nearest libraries that own certain titles
- Create, edit, and export lists of books, audiobooks, and videos (This feature requires a free WorldCat account.)
- Create wish lists for titles the Library doesn't own (These titles may be available as Interlibrary Loans or could be submitted as Purchase Suggestions.)
- Check out reviews, lists, and tags created by other readers, then add your own thoughts
- Share your lists with friends, family, or fellow book club members

Book a Librarian Appointments

You can also get personalized help with Book a Librarian, a program that offers free readers' advisory appointments to all library users (with or without a library card). Book a Librarian sessions are a great way to get recommendations based on your interests and to learn more about the best online resources for specific genres, subjects, yearly events, ages, or reading levels.

Now through May 28th, Book a Librarian appointments are available via Zoom or by phone. Appointments can be requested from 10am to 6pm on Mondays through Thursdays and from 10am to 4:45pm on Fridays. To check available dates / times and request an appointment, please call the Reference Desk at (805) 449-2660 (option 5), or email / text us at Ask a Librarian (<https://asktolnow.tolibrary.org/ask>).