

# Beyond Books: Discover today's library

{{open with black/white shots of books and slow historical type music}}

This may need to change, per Dave D.

Libraries have long been known as places to find reading material or conduct research...even as quiet locations to study.

{{cut to in-color video with hip music}}

But today, your library is much more than a place to borrow books...it offers a wide array of services and events for adults, teens, children, seniors and students. Take a few minutes to discover today's Fargo Public libraries.

Step into the new Main Library in downtown Fargo and you'll notice right away that libraries aren't what they used to be. This modern facility is brightened by lots of natural light and appealing color schemes. Comfortable chairs and quiet study rooms along with meeting and conference rooms make this library an inviting, comfortable and accessible place for people of all ages to enjoy and explore.

**{{Sound byte from staff member about libraries past vs. present??}}**

**This will have to be re-shot as Steve mostly talks about the Carlson Library.**

Of course you'll find books here, including best sellers and new releases. A number of newspapers and magazines are also available, including publications just for children. But these items are just the start of what your library has to offer. You can also check out:

{{Items available for checkout graphic on lower-third of screen}}

- Audiobooks
- Music and video games
- Software
- And movies and other programs on DVD
- Large print books offer an accessible option for those with visual impairments.

If you're looking for specialized information, your library is here to help. Our resources include:

- Auto repair manuals and an auto repair database
- A Foundation Center with materials for those preparing grant applications
- Maps
- A magazine index and article database
- Fargo and Moorhead city directories
- A local history collection
- And telephone books from the region and major cities

If you need to stay connected, you'll enjoy the free wireless Internet access available to those who bring their laptop to the library. If you don't have a computer, you can still get online at the library with one of the computers available for public use.

**{{natural computer-related sound}}**

You don't even have to leave home to see what's available at the library. Visit our Web site at Fargo Library dot org and click on "Search our catalog" to locate items by title, keyword, author or subject. If you have a library card, you can use your card number to log-in and place an item on hold or request an item from another library. You can even renew books online. A brochure that provides detailed instructions on navigating the online catalog is available at all library locations and on the library's Web site at www dot Fargo library dot org.

While you're on our Web site, be sure to check out some of the other features, including books and audio books available for download, as well as our blog and calendar of events. You can request a library card online if you live within the Fargo city limits. Cards are mailed out about five days after applications are submitted online—if you need a card sooner, you can go to any library location to get one the same day.

Library cards are valid for three years. You will need one to borrow items from the library and to use the library's public computers. There may be limits on the number of items that you can have checked out at one time. Checking out books at the library is now even easier, with our new express-checkout stations.

People who live outside of Fargo are eligible to check out items from Fargo's public libraries. Visit our Web site or ask a library staff member for more information.

Most materials you check out can be renewed once if there is not a waiting list for the item. Renewals may be requested in person, online or by calling us at 241-1472. Fines apply for each day an overdue item is not returned; fine amounts vary based on the type of item checked out.

Parking at the Main Library in downtown Fargo is in the Civic Center parking lot on the east side of the building along 3<sup>rd</sup> Street North. Two hours of free parking is available to library customers using this lot, making the downtown location easily accessible. Both the Dr. James Carlson Library and the Northport Branch have plenty of free parking available as well.

{{natural sound of story time}}

Your library is a great place for children. We are pleased to offer weekly storytimes in the spring and fall for preschoolers and toddlers. Registration is required for weekly sessions. To find out about upcoming storytimes at your library, call 241-1495 or visit [www.fargolib.org](http://www.fargolib.org).

You can bring storytime home by checking out one of our storytime kits. These “topic totes” include books, activity sheets, songs and other items centered around a topic or theme to bring reading alive for your children.

Kids will also enjoy the variety of hands-on activities we offer throughout the year, including craft programs, concerts and decorating the library’s Christmas tree.

Our annual winter read-a-thon and summer reading programs offer youngsters extra incentives to dive into books by making them eligible to win prizes. Adults and teens can also enter and win.

Programs and events geared to teens are also regularly featured at the library.

We offer delivery of materials to nursing and retirement housing as well as to private homes to make sure all Fargo residents have reasonable access to library services. Outreach services are available to eligible people of all ages who live within Fargo’s city limits.

{{graphic with phone number}}

To find out if you qualify for outreach services, please call 241-8111.

If you would like to serve your community by helping with our Outreach Services program or volunteering at the library in another way, we welcome the contribution of your time and talents. We need volunteers to:

- Deliver materials to those who are unable to come to the library due a disability
- Shelve books and keep library materials organized

To find out more about these volunteer opportunities, please visit our Web site at [fargo library dot org](http://fargolib.org) or call 241-8111.

Whether you’re volunteering, surfing the Web, uncovering our area’s history, finding your favorite films, or just relaxing with a great read, we encourage you to discover all the resources waiting for you at today’s library.

We will close this program with a look at the library’s hours, which vary by location and season. We hope to see you soon at one of your Fargo libraries!