



Free unlimited audiobooks have arrived that we can download from home

Setting aside the whole issue of living through a pandemic and under stay home guidelines, people are reading more and more books in audio format. I'm one of the ones who resisted it for years but have come around. Some prolific readers I know like to do all their reading on audio.

Libraries, however, have been a repository of treasures for those who love paper and print, offering a limited number of audio books but not an extensive collection. They tend to be expensive and the interest in them has increased more rapidly than the budgets.

The library, however, has now expanded and stepped up the game considerably on audiobook choices for our patrons through **RB Digital**. RB Digital has been the home for downloading all the on-line magazines that cost nothing for patrons and stays on your iPad or other device as long as you like. (I've said it numerous times before, but this is the very best way to read magazines. They actually are even more beautiful than in print. And you can choose to have your favorites automatically delivered when new ones are published.)

This same app will now allow us to download audiobooks to our heart's content. We are talking about unlimited ones that are older than one year. That's not very old. Books stay on my "must read" list longer than that. (Sometimes a lot longer.)

Here are some tips. First, download the **RB Digital app** from the homepage of the library's website. You'll need your library card number and password. Call and leave a message with the library if you need either. If you have already been using RB Digital for magazines, you should **uninstall the app and re-install it signing in again**. This worked for me right away with my same username, password, and library card number. Then you'll see that you can either choose to look at magazines or audiobooks.

When first doing this, it's a good idea to have some time to familiarize yourself with the search options. You can plug in authors' names or book titles, but for just browsing, I found genres a nice place to be. To find genres, **click on filters**. Also, if you don't feel like waiting, click on the filter that says "available" and you are only shown books with no wait list.

There is a long list of genres to choose from including all the most popular ones like mystery, romance, thrillers, historical fiction, memoirs, histories, and general non-fiction. I found a decent cozy mystery and feel good about it. It's **Death by Coffee** by Alex Erikson and follows the cozy mystery conventions just fine. Good escape. The title sold me.

Getting better at using filters, I clicked on **adult, available now, and mystery**, and just checked out a **Nevada Barr** book called **Hunting Season**. You can also hear a preview if you want to make sure the reader suits you before checking it out.

I also put in author **Donna Leon's** name wondering if any of her books were available. Eleven were available to check out now, many I haven't read before. That was great news and now I have one. I could have had a bunch but even in lockdown, no point being greedy. (After all, it isn't toilet paper.)

Books are checked out for twenty-one days. You can also do the usual things of "rewinding" and jumping forward as well as adjusting the reading speed, similar to Audible or Libby.

The library is always seeking to give readers the types of experiences they like best. If you haven't yet tried audiobooks, why not now. If you already love audiobooks, your choices just got much better. The next exciting thing with audiobooks, explains Director Pamela Williams, is, "I will be able to buy copies of popular books for our patrons only, maybe as early as next week." That will give us more books aimed at our established tastes and less wait time because we aren't competing with other libraries.

Just because we're not open doesn't mean we aren't serving our library patrons. There is a lot going on behind the scenes including expanding our choices.

Stay well, everyone. We all look forward to seeing you at the library again.