



### Get your Spring on with Home and Garden Magazines from R.B. Digital

We haven't talked about how to get and keep (forever) free magazines from the library in a long time. Things have only improved both in what's offered and the process of getting it. Plus, you might have meant to try this service but then life moved on, as it tends to do, and you forgot all about it.

When the library first offered free magazine downloads to patrons, the service was called Zinio. However, now the service is called R.B. Digital. Let's look at this process from what's offered to how you can put your favorites on automatic notice to you.

**What's offered:** Hundreds of different magazines free to patrons. I've always had a love – hate relationship with magazines. On the one hand, I love fresh articles about so many different topics from vacation spots to knitting to dogs to news to food, diet, health, home décor and more. However, it would be expensive to purchase subscriptions to everything that seems interesting. Plus, the paper would pile up in the house. And last, I feel guilty buying even one magazine and only reading one short article in it, whether because I ran out of time or only one interested me.

**How can so many magazines be free to keep:** The library participates in a library consortium that has a pricing and product package deal with R.B. Digital. Our library pays an affordable annual subscription price not for individual digital magazines but for the R.B. Digital bundle of magazines.

**What are some examples of magazines I can get:** We can choose multiple magazines from forty different genres, such as crafts, photography, sports, home and garden, current affairs, entertainment, games, literature, pets, religion, science, and travel. Thinking about this week's Spring Gardening Workshop at the library, I found 26 different magazines available under Home and Garden alone. A few examples are Living Life in Bloom, Birds and Blooms, Family Handyman, and Midwest Living. All in all, hundreds of magazines are available.

**How do I get these magazines:** Go to the library's website home page and click on the icon toward the bottom that says R.B. Digital. This will take you to a signup process to create your own account. You'll need your library card number and password. If you have any issues with this, please stop in. Once you have an account, you can select any magazines you want that are offered including available back issues. You can choose to download future issues automatically.

**How do I read them:** You can read your magazines either from your computer or from your iPad, phone (both Android or Apple), or other tablet by downloading the R.B. Digital app, signing into your account, and opening your downloaded magazines. My favorite way to read is on my iPad. The colors look even better than on paper, and I can navigate through the magazine either page by page or by jumping directly to an article. It's a beautiful way to read magazines.

**Will this hog up space on my hard drive:** When you are done reading, simply archive the magazine and it will be held for you to retrieve again on R.B. Digital's servers, kind of like a Kindle. You never return anything.

Remember those three things I don't like about magazines? The cost, the paper, and reading only a small part of each one? All those problems disappear with R.B. Digital downloads.

And yes, of course we still have paper magazines upstairs for your browsing and reading pleasure. When it comes to magazines, we have you covered.

See you at the Library!

**Upcoming Events:** **Our Living Constitution Series** is running again the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month at 6:30. Check our website Calendar. Follow us on FB and Twitter.