



**Sample process for using a device to download magazines and books
(You ought to read this even if you think it sounds boring.)**

If you are a regular reader of this column, you already know that the library offers subscription services for downloadable magazines through RB Digital. Also, you can download digital books through Overdrive.

What I discover talking to people is this sort of information often feels vague to them and perhaps even intimidating, depending on one's digital comfort. But Christmas is a time of new devices, and I got ahold of one already through a Black Friday sale. I thought I'd walk through exactly how to make it useful for library resources.

Black Friday saw a seriously low price for a device that is already one of the most practical on the market, the Amazon Kindle Fire tablet. Wanting something bigger than a phone and smaller than an iPad to toss in a bag, I bought the latest Kindle Fire, 8-inch HD.

There are many apps downloadable to this tablet, but let's focus on the library relevant ones. (However, as a public service announcement, if you get Kindle Fire, do ask yourself if you want just anyone to be able to walk past it even when it is off and say, "Alexa, buy a pop-up camper and ship it to me." Because I notice that's Amazon's default setting. Just fix that in settings in a jiffy.)

Before you start, have your library card number and the personal PIN or password you've set up to go with it. You can arrange this if need be by stopping in or even calling the library.

Also, if you are setting up the apps for RB Digital and Overdrive (the two I did today), make sure you have already set up an account for them on your computer. That comes first. Tech help is available at the library, but if you are reasonably computer competent, you can do this by following on-line prompts. The library has instruction sheets, too.

Last, get out your new Kindle Fire (or whatever tablet you have) and search from the home page to find, let's say, the free RB Digital app. Download it. Open it. Fill in requested information which you've already lined up, and you're almost in business. (If you don't know what an app is, you definitely need to talk to a kid before proceeding.)

I have certain magazines sent to my RB Digital account as soon as they come out and am sent an email indicating that the latest New Yorker or Vanity Fair has arrived. I can see all those

on my Kindle Fire through the app, and I can click on whichever one I want to read. Today I picked the latest New Yorker. But I can pick old ones, too.

I clicked and the New Yorker appeared in full color glory looking even more vivid than on paper. Big enough to read. Small enough to tote around. Free. Never has to be returned. It is kind of thrilling.

When it comes to Overdrive, the process is similar. You need an Overdrive account through our library and then the app on your tablet. Here's a limitation though with the Kindle Fire. If you indicate that you only want to see available audiobooks in Kindle format, you have almost nothing to choose from. If you want digital books, however, there are plenty to choose from. Download them on your phone or computer and have them sent to your Kindle. The choice will pop right up for you.

My conclusion is that the Kindle Fire is an inexpensive and versatile choice to make use of library downloads. And I'm not trying to sell Kindle Fires. It is just my latest experience. I am trying to sell you on library downloads because they are wonderful. Whatever tablet you have ought to follow this process pretty well. Think Christmas presents. Someone might give you a Fire or other device, especially if you hint. (Make your hints specific. Send links as necessary.)

This process is easy. It was much faster to do than write this column. There is help available at the library. Here's another idea. Get your best techy friend who also reads, have her do it, and then have her show you how to do it. "Each one teach one" often spreads a new skill faster than anything else. We all get better at everything when we teach it to a friend.

See you at the Library!

Upcoming Events: **Coffee and Crafts** continues each Friday from 10 – 12 up to Christmas. **Mah Jongg** will have an evening game on Dec. 17 at 5:30 and will meet every Thursday in December at 12:30 as usual. **Bavarian Princess Cocoa & Candy Canes** will be Dec. 19 at 10:30. Follow us on FB and Twitter.