

What Devices Work with Libby?

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The New Ulm Public Library has over 15,000 ebooks and eaudiobooks in our online collection that you can access for free with your library card! They can be accessed online through a browser or through software applications (apps) made by Overdrive – a company that manages digital book collections for libraries. For the past few years, Overdrive has been working on retiring their older app, called Overdrive, to move all users to their newer app, called Libby. If you're wondering how this change affects your ability to access our digital content, I'm happy to provide a clearer picture.

Apps are developed by companies (or people on their own too) to be used with a computer's operating system. Most mobile devices, such as smartphones or tablets, have Google's Android, Apple's IOS, or Amazon's Kindle as their operating system. The Overdrive app was available on all three of these systems, but the Libby app is not yet available for Kindle devices through their app store. However it can be downloaded through Overdrive's website. This can be a more difficult process though, so feel free to make an appointment with me, and I'll be happy to get you through it! In addition, if you have an older Android or IOS device you will not be able to download the Libby app because the app will not recognize your device as being up to the latest security standards. If your device's operating system has IOS before version 10 or Android before version 5, your device cannot get Libby, and it may not even let you connect to websites or the app store at all.

What about e-readers? Unlike a tablet, an e-reader does not allow access to a wide variety of apps and you cannot download or install new apps on an e-reader. This means that you will check out materials through the library's collection on an internet browser on a desktop or laptop computer and then download it to your e-reader device. Overdrive has some great help pages that can walk you through downloading titles to your e-reader, but if you need any additional help, come by the library, and I'll see what I can do. As a general guideline, Amazon Kindle e-readers download titles through your Amazon account over a wifi connection. Be sure the title is available in the Kindle format before you check it out, otherwise your device will not be able to open it. Barnes and Noble Nook e-readers require you to have the Adobe Digital Editions software on your laptop or desktop, and then you download it to your Nook e-reader from Adobe via a connecting cable between your computer and your e-reader.

Now if that explanation seemed clear as mud, you're probably not alone. When it comes to technology, many of us are visual learners. It's much easier to show and practice than to just read about it. So come by the library, and we'll get you setup and ready to enjoy or continue enjoying our great digital collection!

The library is located at 17 N. Broadway and is open to the public Monday to Thursday 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. The library will be closed on Friday, November 11 for Veterans Day.