

## Check Out A Book On Libby Today

Paulina Poplawska, Library Director

Have you read a book lately? I usually have an e-book on my phone, an audiobook in the car, and 'a few' books around the house. It doesn't mean I finish them all.

According to a 2019 Pew Research Center survey twenty seven percent of Americans consumed books in both print and digital formats in the past year. There was also an increase from fourteen percent to twenty percent in audiobook listeners from the last time the survey was taken in 2016. One in five Americans now listens to audiobooks. Seven percent of Americans read only in digital format.

That's a significant number of digital readers. It is also a group that the library is committed to serving. Since 2010, our regional library cooperative, Traverse des Sioux, has contracted with OverDrive to provide electronic books and audiobooks to patrons who live within its nine-county service area. With all of the member libraries financially supporting OverDrive, we are able to quickly build a robust electronic collection.

For those of you already using OverDrive, the new app Libby is wonderful. Books now automatically download to your device without a prompt. Libby is the new OverDrive app and is under its umbrella so both have access to the same collection.

For those of you new to e-books, library staff is available to help you get started. Please make an appointment by calling the library at 507-359-8331 to set up an appointment with Reference staff. Allow 15-20 minutes for your appointment. Bring your phone, tablet, laptop, or e-reader with you.

The OverDrive e-materials, located at [tds.overdrive.com](https://tds.overdrive.com), is a growing collection. There are about 9800 e-books, ranging from children's to adult. There are about 2300 audiobooks for all ages. There is a high demand for audiobooks and the consortium is committed to building that collection. Keep in mind that e-audiobooks and e-books can cost upwards of \$75 or more per title. That's almost three times the cost of a print book or book on CD. We do accept monetary donations to the OverDrive collection as we do to the library's physical collections. If you're interested in helping us further grow this e-material collection, please contact me at the library. The collection development of the electronic materials is a (slow but) steady process.

The survey also indicates that seventy two percent of U.S. adults say that they have read a book in the past year in any format. That's a wonderful statistic for any library and librarian to hear! Next time you're in let us know what you're reading. Check out a book at the library or on OverDrive today. We look forward, as always, to seeing you in the library!