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Growing up, my brother and I did chores around the house. We set the table for dinner, raked the leaves in the fall, fed the dogs every night and vacuumed at least once a week. When we were little, we did these chores because somehow our dear parents made them sound like fun. “Wow, the dogs sure liked the food you gave them!” “You’re such a good helper – do you want to do the dusting too?”

As we got older, we realized that doing chores around the house was work. Hard work. And we were doing it for free. After checking with the rest of the kids in the neighborhood we discovered something called an “allowance”. We learned that all of that work we were doing and the time we were putting into the work had worth. We learned that what we were doing was important and valuable to our parents.

Just like those chores to our parents, libraries are valuable to their communities. And not just valuable in the *gee-don't-we-all-love-our-libraries?* sort of way. You receive value from having a library card because it allows you to check out books, dvds, cds and more. You receive value from attending computer classes that teach you the skills you need to advance at your job. And you receive value from simply spending time at the library, reading with your children.

If you are interested in seeing just how valuable the library is to you, visit www.beloitlibrary.org and click on the *Library Value Calculator* on the homepage. Like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and check out these books coming soon to your Beloit Public Library.

50 Things Not to Do after 50: From Naming Your Pets after Tolkien Characters to Signaling “Peace Out” to Your Friends by Leland Gregory. If you or someone you know has just turned fifty, it’s time to accept that the rules of life have changed, and that fifty is *not* the new thirty for most of us. Leland Gregory understands the forgetful minds, sagging bodies, and flagging pride of his fellow middle-agers, and in *50 Things Not to Do after 50*, he offers helpful advice aimed at combating the humiliations this stage of life can bring. (Book Description)

The Man Who Couldn't Stop: OCD and the True Story of a Life Lost in Thought by David Adam. Have you ever had a strange urge to jump from a tall building or steer your car into oncoming traffic? You are not alone. In this captivating fusion of science, history, and personal memoir, David Adam explores the weird thoughts that exist within every mind, and how they drive millions of us toward obsession and compulsion. (Book Description)

Seed Libraries: And Other Means of Keeping Seeds in the Hands of the People by Cindy Conner. Historically, seed companies were generally small, often family-run businesses. Because they were regionally based, they could focus on varieties well-suited to the local environment. However the absorption of these small, independent seed businesses into large multinationals, combined with the advancement of biotechnology resulting in hybrids and GMO seeds, has led to a serious loss of genetic diversity. The public is now at the mercy of the corporations that control the seeds. (Book Description)