

Beloit Public Library
March 2015 BDN

It wasn't so long ago that if you wanted to talk to your friend who lived on the other side of the world you either had to write a letter or spend a small fortune on an international phone call. No more. Now you can send a text or a message on Facebook. It used to be if you wanted to buy something you had to drive to the bank to get the money and then drive to the store to make your purchase. Now you just punch in your credit card number and your husband's birthday present shows up on your doorstep the next day. And, heaven forbid, some of us actually remember dialing numbers on a rotary phone. Today you can simply speak the words "call mom" into your cell or Bluetooth headset and mom is magically on the phone. For better or for worse, we have become a society of instant gratification.

Heck, I've become so used to getting what I want when I want it that I even have a hard time waiting in line for the library books I have placed on hold. Wouldn't it be great if I could pick up my holds on my own without having to stand in line? Why, yes, that is an excellent idea.

The Beloit Public Library is excited to announce that coming soon you will be able to pick up your own holds from the Holds Pick Up shelf located near the New Books area. We will have instructions on how to find your books and you can then either check them out at the self-check machine, or you can bring them to the check-out desk for a friendly staff member to help you. Either way, in an instant you get what you want.

And in keeping with getting what you want when you want it, be sure to look for these books available now at your Beloit Public Library:

Exploding the Phone: The Untold Story of the Teenagers and Outlaws who Hacked Ma Bell by Phil Lapsley. Before smartphones, back even before the Internet and personal computer, a misfit group of technophiles, blind teenagers, hippies, and outlaws figured out how to hack the world's largest machine: the telephone system. Starting with Alexander Graham Bell's revolutionary "harmonic telegraph," by the middle of the twentieth century the phone system had grown into something extraordinary, a web of cutting-edge switching machines and human operators that linked together millions of people like never before. But the network had a billion-dollar flaw, and once people discovered it, things would never be the same. (Book Description)

The Marshmallow Test: Mastering Self-Control by Walter Mischel. A child is presented with a marshmallow and given a choice: Eat this one now, or wait and enjoy two later. What will she do? And what are the implications for her behavior later in life? The world's leading expert on self-control, Walter Mischel has proven that the ability to delay gratification is critical for a successful life, predicting higher SAT scores, better social and cognitive functioning, a healthier lifestyle and a greater sense of self-worth. But is willpower prewired, or can it be taught? (Book Description)