

Beloit Daily News

June 2016

What's all the Hoopla at the Library?

As a child I remember being dropped off by a parent at the Carnegie library on West Grand, library card in hand, to spend an hour or two roaming the shelves looking for great books to take home and read. The atmosphere at the library was one of quiet and contemplation. A few years after that I was dropped off by a parent or sibling at the Pleasant Street library where I would roam the shelves looking for books, with the addition of LPs to take home with me. The library was still a mostly quiet place and going to the library with a friend in tow was a problem, because giggling was not allowed.

Fast forward to the Eclipse Boulevard library where I have the privilege of being employed. The 21st Century public library in America is quite different from the public library of say, 20 plus years ago. Today there is a busy hum of activity, very little shushing, programs happening morning, afternoon, and evening, and best of all, a feast of formats, resources and ways to access them to suit just about everyone's needs. The Beloit Public Library is part of this trend.

An example which illustrates this format/resource/access feast can be seen by typing *alice in wonderland* in a keyword search of our RockCat catalog. This results in print books, music CDs, VHS, DVDs, Blu-rays, audiobooks, print music, and downloadable items meant for kids, teens and adults. More choices may be found by going to OverDrive through **D**iscover, **I**nvestigate, **G**row (DIG) on the BPL website. Searching *alice in wonderland* in OverDrive results in eBooks that you can download and read or listen to on your mobile device.

And now, there is Hoopla. What's all the hoopla about Hoopla? Hoopla is accessed with your library card and PIN, and everyone with a library card in the Arrowhead Library System may download 6 items each month, free of charge. Click on **DIG** on the BPL website to find Hoopla and sign up. A search for *alice in wonderland* in Hoopla results in 48 eBooks, 17 audiobooks, 15 comics, 9 movies, 6 music choices, and 1 television choice. Between physical items at the physical library and virtual items accessed through the library's website, we are providing Beloit area residents with a 21st Century library. Something unimaginable to that little girl from the past with a library card and love of books. "Dig" in and find out what the Hoopla is all about with your Beloit Public Library card! Visit us at <http://beloitlibrary.org/> or call 608-364-2905 for more information.

Tina Kakuske, Head of Adult Services