Library's new website proves to be a hit

Have you discovered your library's new website yet?

Oakville Public Library's new website has been a great success, offering amazing new capabilities to our customers.

After some very minor glitches, we are up and running and serving Oakville. We are proud to be the first library in North America to offer this type of catalogue and website integration technology.

We invite everyone to take a journey through the new site and let us know what you think of it.

Customers have been amazed at the ease by which they can now search the catalogue for their favourite reads and how adaptable it is to their own preference.

An OPL customer wrote, "Great improvements since I last used this website. I love the pictures of the books I have out on loan, so I instantly know what I've got."

Some of the key features of the new website include the ability to add and receive recommendations, rate titles, categorize books, keep track of what has been borrowed, create lists, earn credits to win prizes, and more.

The software allows every OPL customer the ability to create their own online 'space'.

Oakville residents have enjoyed creating their own spaces on the OPL site since it was launched last week.

One regular library user said, "I had the most positive and surprisingly enjoyable experience with the new OPL site. You show, day after day, how much you care about improving, helping, encouraging individuals of all ages. You neatly show how much you care to cultivate, educate and entertain the people of Canada, especially the people of Oakville."
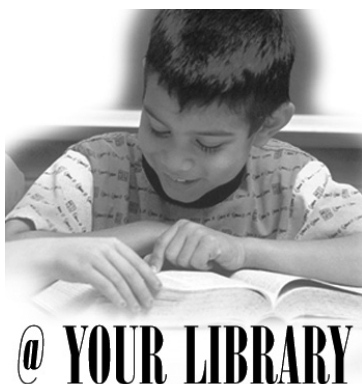
The look of the site has been an exciting improvement for both staff and customers, but the depth of functionality has expanded dramatically.

The site has much more visual content than the old one, customers can navigate it easily and recognize the materials that they have borrowed or searched for.

As you first visit the site, the 'Newly Acquired Items' list lets you browse the library's latest purchases with ease.

The 'What's New' page is a great starting point for users to check recent activity and to get a summary of your own borrowing and users can see titles that have recently been reviewed by other library users or staff.

The layout is designed for quick and easy reference; the right side bar summarizes the users account and borrowing information and the left gives an overview of recent user activity on the site, including new lists.

Those users who have recently added comments to titles or posted new lists are featured at the top.

The overall look and feel of the new web site as you travel through it is very cool — it has been described by customers as 'modern', 'fresh', and 'uncluttered'.

A regular OPL customer declared that he is, "Looking forward to discovering all that it has to offer."

So while other libraries across the continent are patiently waiting for this software to become available, we are thankful that Oakville Public Library have been supported in our vision to make our website as much about you, the user, as it is about the library.

OPL is delighted with the opportunity to lead the way and offer our customers access to so much more through our library system.

Be sure to check out the new website for yourself www.opl.on.ca and take the tour!

— *Submitted by the Oakville Public Library*

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