

Delaware Libraries to Host Digital Bookmobile National Tour, Share the eBook Download Experience



Dover, Del. – The Digital Bookmobile National Tour (www.digitalbookmobile.com) will showcase Delaware's free eBook download service statewide with three events next week.

The Digital Bookmobile is housed inside an 18-wheel tractor-trailer. This 74-foot community outreach vehicle is a high-tech update of the traditional bookmobile that has served communities for decades. The vehicle is equipped with broadband Internet-connected PCs, high definition monitors, premium sound systems, and a variety of portable media players, all of which help visitors explore Delaware Libraries download service. Interactive learning stations give visitors an opportunity to search the library's digital media collection, use supported mobile devices, and sample eBooks, audiobooks, music, and video.

Thanks to the support of Governor Jack Markell and Secretary of State Jeffrey Bullock, Delaware libraries now have a statewide infrastructure that enables implementation of eBooks technology, as they evolve.

“Libraries are supporting a culture of innovation in Delaware – and here's a chance for everyone to experiment with the latest in eBook and tablet technologies,” said State Librarian Dr. Annie Norman.

The Digital Bookmobile National Tour will be visiting New Castle, Kent and Sussex County on the following dates:

- Wednesday, **September 25**; Appoquinimink Public Library from 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, **September 26**; Dover Public Library from noon – 6:00 p.m.
- Friday, **September 27**; Georgetown Public Library from 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday, **September 28**; Georgetown Public Library from 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

At these free events, readers of all ages will learn how to download eBooks from the library through interactive demonstrations and high-definition instructional videos. A gadget gallery—featuring Kindle®, iPod® touch, Android™ tablet, NOOK™, Sony® Reader™, BlackBerry®, Windows® Phone, and more—will help visitors discover portable devices that are compatible with the library's download service.

In August 2013, eBook circulation in Delaware increased by 46 percent over August 2012, while eAudiobook circulation was up by 141 percent compared with August 2012 circulation. Total downloads in August set a new record of 18,464 for the month. Also, during the 2013 Labor Day holiday, when all public libraries are closed, Delaware libraries experienced the largest number of eBook/eAudiobook checkouts ever in a single day. Over 700 people downloaded eBooks that day.

The download service is available for library cardholders who can check out and download digital titles anytime, anywhere by visiting www.delawarelibraries.org. From this website, cardholders can browse the growing collection of bestselling, new release, and classic titles, and check out a digital title with a valid library card. Once downloaded, digital titles can be enjoyed on a computer or transferred to supported mobile devices. Many audio titles can also be burned to audio CD. At the end of the lending period, titles will automatically expire and are returned to the digital collection. There are never late fees or damaged items.

The Digital Bookmobile is a service of the Delaware Libraries Consortium and is operated by OverDrive, Inc. To check out and download digital books and more, visit <http://delawarelibraries.org>.

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