



BENBROOK PUBLIC LIBRARY

INFORM - IMAGINE - INNOVATE

1065 Mercedes Street Benbrook, Texas 817-249-6632 www.benbrooklibrary.org

Goodbye, MetrOPAC! A Note From the Director

By now, many have heard the news that the Benbrook Library will be leaving the MetrOPAC, an association of seven area libraries centered around Fort Worth. I apologize for the short notice and the abrupt change this brings and understand the accompanying frustration. However, we are excited about moving forward with very promising prospects!

The MetrOPAC is governed by a five-year contract that expires this year and our library opted out prior to its automatic renewal. This contract was based on a 2005 version that had not changed much despite our phenomenal growth. Fort Worth is the administrator of the contract and the automation system shared by the member libraries. Within the contract, they reserve authority for themselves with many 'sole discretion' clauses, negating input from member libraries. Benbrook Library sought to have a greater voice for itself and attempted to renegotiate the contract. Fort Worth shared their vision going forward of reserving even greater authority for itself to the point of insisting on writing our circulation policies, including limiting non-traditional lendable items. We found that to be unacceptable.

We issued our withdrawal notice in July, during the opt-out window, with the contract terminating November 30th. Once we issued our notice, Fort Worth unilaterally established the timeline and immediately suspended privileges and services, further underscoring the reasoning for our withdrawal. We found ourselves reacting to a very short timeline of actions affecting our constituents. Our withdrawal notice, Fort Worth Library's concept statement, and a copy of the current contract were posted at the top of our homepage (benbrooklibrary.org) since declaring our intentions and remain there for public review.

Benbrook is special. Out of over 500 public libraries in the state of Texas, there are only fifteen library districts, with Benbrook establishing one of them. A library district is funded through sales tax and the Benbrook Library receives one-half of one percent of sales tax collected within the city limits of Benbrook. We are governed by an elected board of trustees drawn from among registered voters of Benbrook. Most libraries in Texas, including each of the associated MetrOPAC libraries, are city departments. The district model of the Benbrook Library affords optimal flexibility in serving our community while condensing the line of accountability between constituents, library administration, and library governance.

Prior to becoming a library district, the Benbrook Library operated on an all-donation, all-volunteer basis. A charming group of "founding mothers" of the Friends of the Library worked tirelessly to establish our library as it is today. Their effort is responsible for all of the materials, programs, and services that we were able to offer over the past twenty years and into perpetuity. Many of these delightful individuals, and so many others who contributed to our growth, have remained involved to this day. It would be an extreme disservice for our library to subordinate itself to the interests of another library, which itself is subject to the prerogatives of its governing city.

Since losing the ability to borrow from area libraries in a shared catalog, we are meeting this demand through interlibrary loan (ILL). We have already joined with over 800 public and academic libraries in Texas and neighboring states, and we are served by a five-day-a-week courier service and have assigned additional staff to process the high volume of requests. Once the order is pulled, most delivery times are between 48-72 hours. Additionally, we have increased the per-card request limits from six to ten, and are purchasing additional copies of new and high-demand (bestseller) items to relieve hold times.

Beginning November 16th, our library will transition to a new feature-rich automation system that we fully control. The customer-side interface will look and feel different, while offering greater utility. Because we can now integrate third-party products, which were unavailable to us through Fort Worth, we are proud to announce adding cloudLibrary to supplement OverDrive for eBooks. In the new system, you will be able to discover and borrow these eBooks, along with traditional materials directly from our catalog. Other products include NoveList, a readers advisory tool, the ability for online library card applications, and a customer engagement application that we will use to manage and grow our Friends of the Library organization to whom we owe so much.

**Starting November 13th, Benbrook items may only be returned to Benbrook Library,
and all other items must be returned to a Fort Worth Library.**

MetrOPAC Update

(cont.) When we are no longer bound to Fort Worth, we are free to re-imagine and re-align our operation. As we are supported with sales tax, we can recognize the communities that shop Benbrook by offering pathways to our services. When we unsuccessfully attempted to grandfather Fort Worth residents who have frequented our library for years, our Friends of the Library stepped up to offer a special dispensation for residents of the Ventana and Skyline Ranch subdivisions to join the Friends to receive resident borrower privileges. Other Fort Worth residents may visit one of their branches and request a TexShare Card, which we would convert to a local card.

We are currently exploring with our former partners of the MetrOPAC, along with libraries all over the metroplex, the formation of a new consortium where our respective independence is maintained while participating in resource sharing on a grander scale.

We appreciate the supportive comments shared with our staff and posted on social media. We also understand the frustration and disruptions this action causes. We ask for your patience and understanding as we roll out the new system and adapt to our new-found independence. I am happy to visit with anyone about our library and invite you to contact me at director@benbrooklibrary.org. Thank you!

Library Closed

The library will be closed on **Friday, November 13th** and **Saturday, November 14th** for staff training on our new catalog system. We look forward to showing you all the changes on placing holds and searching for books on **Monday, November 16th!**

Library Cards

Regardless of where you live, we'd love to have you visit our library! The type of library card we're able to offer you is determined by your home address. Each card type has different borrowing privileges, which are detailed in the table below:

Card Type	Checkout Limit	Interlibrary Loan Request Limit	Access to Digital Resources?	Able to Check Out Library of Things & Technology Items?	Able to Check Out Children's Kits?
Resident (for those live within the city limits of Benbrook)	50 items	10 requests	Yes	Yes	Yes
Non-Resident (for those who live outside of Benbrook in a city other than Fort Worth)	25 items	5 requests	Yes	Yes	Yes
TexShare (for those who live in Fort Worth)	25 items	No requests permitted	No	No	Yes

For those who live in Skyline Ranch or Ventana subdivisions, if you become a Friends of the Library member at their special rate, you will be able to qualify for a Resident card for your household.*

If you qualify for a **Resident** or **Non-Resident library card**, visit us with a valid state-issued ID and a piece of recent first-class mail with a matching address. If you qualify for a **TexShare** library card, first visit a Fort Worth Public Library location to obtain a TexShare card, then visit us with a state-issued ID and a piece of recent first-class mail with a matching address. *Join the friends by emailing friends@benbrooklibrary.org.

New Services



cloudLibrary is a digital content platform that gives you access to thousands of ebooks and audiobooks to read on your phone, tablet, e-reader, or computer. We've linked up with other libraries across Texas to give you access to over 170,000 items!



Curiosity Stream is a streaming service full of family-friendly documentaries that you can check out for 3 weeks at a time. The app will also be available on our Roku Streaming Sticks that are available for checkout.



World Trade Press is the world's premier publisher of country-by-country information products for culture, travel, language, and food. This is a great resource for elementary kids and homeschoolers.

New Catalog

Beginning Monday, November 16th, you'll notice that our catalog looks a little different. That day will mark the launch of our new catalog system, Koha! While navigating the new visuals and necessary clicks may take some getting used to, you'll still be able to search for books, place holds, and check the status of your account. We'll of course be available to help you as we all break in this exciting new system!



TalkBox Booths



We will be adding three TalkBox Booths next month to serve as public computer workstations, which are ideal for virtual meetings, online learning, and other needs where the user requires increased sound levels. In addition to the computers included, they feature sound reduction, ventilation with Hepa filters, hand sanitizing dispenser, and UVC germicidal lighting. Reservations will be managed similarly to our conference rooms through the library's website (<https://benbrooklibrary.libnet.info/reserve>) or through our app (*search Benbrook Public Library in your app store*).

Tablet Stations for Checkout



A tablet station will be coming soon to our library. Tablets for these stations can be borrowed for in-house use with its built in self-check console. They feature antibacterial protective screens, will be served by the library's wi-fi, and be preloaded with age-appropriate digital magazines, ebooks, and learning applications. The tablet station interfaces with the library's automation system to determine the age category of the borrower and deliver the corresponding profile of resources to the device. The kiosk also serves to remove usage history between sessions and recharges devices for the next borrower. A Benbrook library card is required to access these tablets.

Benbrook Library District

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1065 Mercedes St.
Benbrook, TX 76126

Friends of the Library

The Little Bookshop

The Friends of the Library have set up shop at the Benbrook Antique Mall! They will be selling books at a low cost that have been donated, or that the library has withdrawn. All proceeds will benefit the Benbrook Public Library.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Friends, you can pick up an application at the library, or email friends@benbrooklibrary.org.

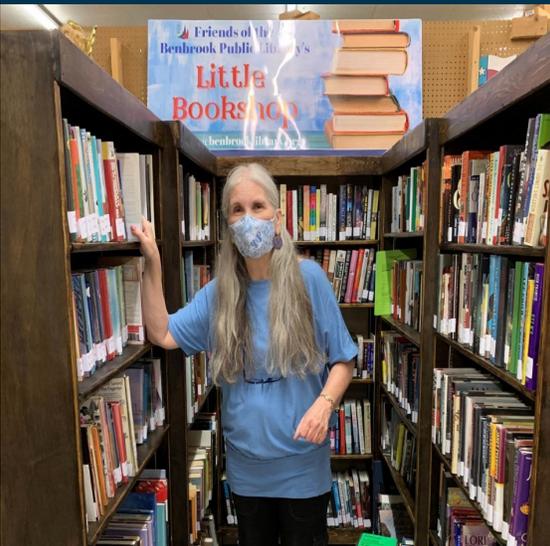
Support the Friends!

There are ways you can support the Friends of the Library on your everyday purchases through Tom Thumb, Kroger, and Amazon! Just link your reward card, and the Friends will receive a portion of your purchase.

Kroger Community Reward Program: NW596

Tom Thumb Good Neighbor Program: #10421

Amazon: smile.amazon.com



Volunteer Nancy shelving books at the Benbrook Antique Mall!

**BLOOD DRIVE @
the library!**

December 18th 1-5 PM

