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Library Expands Online Offerings

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Kilgore Public Library patrons use public access computers Monday. The Library has recently adopted online programs to give users new resources for various learning activities and reading. NEWS HERALD photo by AUSTIN KING

Kilgore Public Library has partnered with seven new web services a number of high-tech reading and learning opportunities for library patrons, including virtual books, audiobooks, magazines – even a program that tracks a user’s progress in learning a new language.

According to Librarian Linda Johnson, library staff has been busy the past few weeks learning to operate these new services.

“It’s been real difficult, getting it all together,” Johnson said. “But it’s very helpful and I think the public will appreciate it.”

The first of many programs is LearningExpress Library, which features a number of study centers for students of all grade levels, college students and even job and career programs for adults.

“LearningExpress Library is a program that almost any age can use,” Johnson said. “It’s basically an all-around learning system. There’s even a GED preparation course and a center for becoming a U.S. citizen.”

Another program, Mango, offers numerous language courses.

“Mango has 19 different languages on there, and it keeps track of how students come along learning a language,” Johnson said.

Available languages include Spanish, French, Japanese, Brazilian, Portuguese, German, Mandarin Chinese and Greek.

Another program new to KPL is Zinio, which allows residents to find digital copies of magazines.

“We have Zinio, which is a program that lets you download magazines,” Johnson said. “Right now, we have 29 different titles.

“If users let us know what titles they’re interested in, we can change things around and get what they want to see.”

With OneClickdigital, KPL users have access to thousands of audiobooks.

“OneClickdigital tallies probably over 3,000 audiobooks for adults and more than 700 for children,” Johnson said. eSequels is a program useful for library users who are interested in reading books from a series.

“This is great for fiction readers,” Johnson said. “They can go in and find all the books in a series, or they can search by a character’s name. People are always wanting to know which book to read next.”

Finally, OverDrive is a program that KPL has been on for some time now. Over- Drive is a program that pools information from KPL and 29 other libraries using the system for resident use.

All together, these new programs will cost the library \$12,930 annually.

Once all the programs are up and running they can be found on KPL’s website. Several of the programs are already available on the website’s homepage, kplkids.org/.

For more information, call the Library at 903-984- 1529.

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