



East Central Arkansas Regional Library

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: September 18, 2018

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Any Cross or Woodruff County Library

LIBRARY EXPANDS ELECTRONIC COLLECTIONS

Creation of a statewide network grows collections almost twenty-fold

WYNNE, September 18th. Downloadable e-books and audiobooks have been provided by area libraries since 2014, but readers in Cross and Woodruff Counties are about to see some major changes in the content available.

The Arkansas Book Cooperative (ABC), which was created by the East Central Arkansas Regional Library (the public libraries of Cross and Woodruff Counties) and the Arkansas State Library in 2014 is one of the major players in a merger between the e-content collections of many libraries in the state. The new consortia will be known as the “Arkansas Digital Library Consortia” (ADLC) and will be a truly statewide effort to share digital collections among readers across the state.

“We’ve worked on this project for almost five years now.” Said Regional Librarian John Paul Myrick. “It took a lot of effort to get to this point. I am so thrilled that the libraries of this state are pooling resources to provide more benefits to the citizens of Arkansas.”

The new cooperative will mean that the collections currently available to the residents of Cross and Woodruff Counties and other members of the ABC group, currently around 3,000 items, will grow exponentially. An estimated 10,421 audiobooks and 43,061 e-books will be available once the merger is complete.

The new cooperative will allow Cross and Woodruff County citizens to share e-books and other digital content with 64 other Arkansas libraries:

Ash Flat Library

Ashley County Library

Calhoun County Library

Clark County Library (2 locations)

Columbia County Library (2 locations)
Conway County Library
Crittenden County Library (6 locations)
Crossett Public Library
East Central Arkansas Regional Library (5 locations)
Faulkner Van-Buren Regional Library (8 locations)
Forrest City Public Library
Independence County Library
Jackson County Library (2 locations)
Lawrence County Library (3 locations)
Lonoke County Library System (4 locations)
Mississippi County Library System (6 locations)
Pea Ridge Community Library
Saline County Library (2 locations)
Southeast Arkansas Regional Library (9 locations in Drew, Chicot, Desha, Lincoln, & Bradley Cos.)
West Memphis Public Library
William F. Laman Public Library (North Little Rock, 2 locations)
White County Regional Library System (9 locations)

“The buying power of many of the new members is quite large, and some of these libraries have been buying digital content for many more years than we have.” Myrick said. “Buy sharing our resources and working together, all of Arkansas benefits.”

Myrick pointed out immediate benefits to not only area residents, but to the library. “Our membership costs will drop exactly 50% now that there are so many members to split the overhead. We will use these savings to buy even more content, particularly best sellers, which we can reserve specifically for Cross and Woodruff residents.”

The merger of the collections began this morning, and the new website can be accessed through the ecarls.org website once it is up and running. Patrons can use their own apps or a downloadable “Libby” app to read books on their mobile devices, laptops, or desktop computers from anywhere in the world with Internet access. The content is available 24 hours a day, meaning, technically, that the library never closes.

For more information, contact your nearest ECARL library.

END