



THE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY
of Cincinnati
and
Hamilton County

800 Vine Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-2071
www.CincinnatiLibrary.org

Phyllis Hegner
Assistant PR Manager
Phone (513) 369-4571
Phyllis.Hegner@CincinnatiLibrary.org

Emily Mueller
Media Communications Specialist
Phone (513) 369-6959
Emily.Mueller@CincinnatiLibrary.org

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Press Release

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A Library Card: Your Most Important School Supply!

The Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County Helps Students Succeed

As back to school gives way to back *in* school, it's time to make sure the students in your family have the most important school supply of all—a library card. To help them succeed with what's ahead—a steady stream of school assignments, from doing homework and writing reports to studying for tests and preparing presentations—the RED card (issued free by the Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County) is an essential key to opening a school-ready toolbox chocked full of resources to help students, as well as parents and teachers. Sign up for a library card at any of the Library's 41 locations or apply online at www.cincinnatiLibrary.org/account/application.asp.



Pre-school to second-grade students from St. Peter Claver Latin School for Boys proudly display their library cards at the Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County. Classes from the school regularly visit the Main Library's Children's Learning Center.

Students who have their RED card are connected to over 10 million items available at the Library. With it they can borrow for free—hardbacks and paperbacks, children's books and cassette kits, CD-ROMS, digital books and videos, DVDs, CDs, magazines, sheet music, and slides and encyclopedia volumes. But the benefits of having a library card don't stop here.

With 41 Library locations around Cincinnati and Hamilton County, there are more than 600 computers accessible. While free access to the Internet is available to anyone who visits the Public Library, students who have their RED card have additional access to online resources available on the Library's website to help them achieve their academic goals. Those who have a library card can access *Homework Chat*, the Library's research databases, as well as downloadable audio and ebooks for free at www.cincinnatiLibrary.org.

- **Homework Chat** – The Library's new online tutor service, *Homework Chat*, offers elementary, middle and high school students more ways to receive assistance with homework questions. Accessing *Homework Chat* is easy. All you need is your library card and pin number (the last four digits of your phone number). Simply look for the link in *Kidspace* kidspace.cincinnatiLibrary.org and *Teenspace* at teenspace.cincinnatiLibrary.org, the Library's websites for younger customers. Step-by-step instructions are provided online.

Traditional online homework help services require students to ask specific questions to receive help but these services cannot help students who are struggling to learn or master a new concept. By contrast, *Homework Chat* can accommodate virtually any student through: one-to-one homework help from live, online tutors; state-aligned skills building lessons to help students master key academic areas in one-to-one sessions from expert instructors; writing lab specialists to help students produce better term papers, letters, and reports; and tutoring for Spanish speakers.

- **Databases** – Make use of the Library's collections of databases to locate information and full-text articles on a broad range of subjects from magazines, newspapers, encyclopedias, and books. They're ideal for gathering research for reports and special projects. Online test prep guides are available, too. A guide to using databases is also available online at <http://www.cincinnatiLibrary.org/resources/homeworkhelp.pdf>. To log on you'll need your library card and pin number.

- more -

- **Digital Books** – If you're looking for a classic title like *The Scarlet Letter*, but can't find it on the shelves, try accessing the Library's downloadable audiobooks and ebooks featuring popular authors and well-known publishers. The Library's collection of eBooks also consists of Cliffs Notes and a wide variety of study guides. Most titles may be borrowed for 14 days and automatically disappear from your account when the loan period expires. There are no overdue fines, and it doesn't cost anything. To log on you'll need your library card and pin number.

There are multitudes of other resources available virtually through the Library's website at www.cincinnati.library.org that can be accessed for free anytime from anywhere. Individuals have the option of logging on to one of the Library's onsite computers, or they can bring their own laptop. WI-FI service is available in the seating areas of all 40 branches and the Main Library, and it's free for Cincinnati Bell Fuse and ZoomTown subscribers. Some of the most popular online resources and services of interest to students and parents alike include:

- **Sites by Subject** – The Library's website features directories of websites conveniently organized by subject that have been selected and reviewed by librarians. Browse through the subjects, pick one or more of interest, and you're on your way to tapping into information on the topics you most need.
- **KnowItNow** – Through this online service professional librarians are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to answer your reference questions and assist you with finding information. Once logged on with your Ohio zip code, you and a librarian engage in a "chat" session. The librarian "pushes" high quality, authoritative online resources to your screen. You can watch and participate as librarians skillfully navigate the Internet to find precise answers to your questions. At the conclusion of each *KnowItNow* session, you will receive a complete transcript of your session via email including links to all the online resources shared during that session.
- **Turning the Page Book Blog** – The Library's staff of enthusiastic readers share recommendations on this frequently updated book blog. One of the Library's *Turning the Page* bloggers has pulled together a terrific list of back-to-school titles for young kids. Check out the list of recommendations by visiting the following URL: www2.cincinnati.library.org/blog/contributor/Jill
- **Kidspace & Teenspace Websites** – Two Library websites, kidspace.cincinnati.library.org and teenspace.cincinnati.library.org, devoted to the younger set provide all sorts of information geared toward their interests. Everything from reading suggestions and help with homework questions to things to do around town and what's going on at the Library can be found on these sites. There are fun games and opportunities to share comments with others. Plus, there are resources helpful to parents and teachers.

For parents the start of another academic year is an invitation to become more involved in their children's success—providing encouragement while monitoring study times and homework. Research consistently shows that when parents stay involved in their children's study routines and learning experiences, it positively impacts their children's educational outcome. Making regular use of the Library throughout the school year and beyond is one of the best ways to help your children achieve their academic goals. Having them sign up for their RED card is the key to unlocking a world of free resources in print and online—all with the expert assistance of librarians and library staff.

SIGN-UP FOR A LIBRARY CARD TODAY – Library cards are free to all Ohio residents who fill out a short form, provide address verification, and picture ID. Cards are also free to residents of Boone, Campbell, and Kenton counties in Kentucky and Dearborn County, in Indiana with a valid library card from their local library and address verification. Children under the age of 18 may get a card with the signed approval of a parent or guardian. Nonresidents may obtain a library card for a small annual fee.