eLibrary Guide

Want to read on the go, whether it's ebooks, online magazines, or audiobooks? Parramatta Library's online collection lets you find a way that works for you! This guide has how-to information, however you want to read - smartphones & tablets, computers or ereaders.

Plus, there's information on some of the dozens of online resources available 24/7, 365 days a year, with your library card. Find out more at *https://parra.city/online*
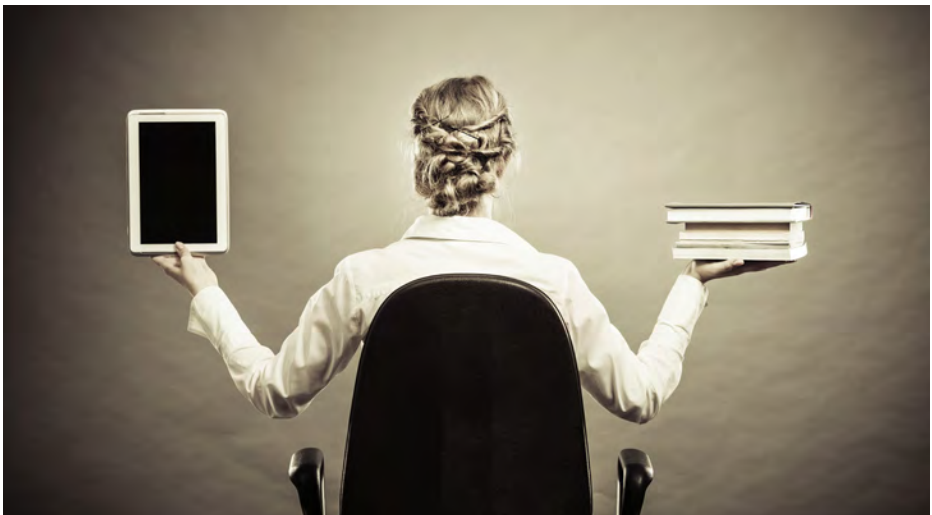
How To Borrow Online

Visit *parra.city/apps* to install a library app & start exploring.

Prefer a computer? You can read on the screen inside your browser (eg. Firefox or Chrome), or download to read later. The educational entertainment apps can also be used via website.

To borrow, you need:

- A library card & password
- Internet access (you can read offline after download)
- A smartphone, tablet or computer

Where to find the Online Library Collection

https://parra.city/online

Reading devices & free software you'll need:

Smartphone/tablet	>	library app
Desktop/Laptop	>	Adobe Digital Editions (ADE)
eReader & computer	>	ADE on the computer

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"Libraries: The medicine chest of the soul."
- inscription in the Library at Thebes

Did You Know?

- Ebook text can be made larger, for easy reading.
- You can put bookmarks in lots of places in an ebook.
- E-Readers include built-in dictionaries.
- Your computer can read an ebook to you, if you have the right software.
- Ebooks are easily portable - you can store hundreds on a tablet, but they don't take up space or weight.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I reset my password?
Visit the library catalogue at **parra.city/search** and click 'Log in', then 'Forgot my PIN'. You'll get an email with a reset link.

How many items can I borrow?
10 ebooks or e-audiobooks at a time from each platform (e.g. BorrowBox, RBdigital). ePlatform allows up to 20.

How long can I borrow them for?
Ebooks & e-audio are 3 weeks. E-magazines are unlimited.

Can I renew items?
This varies between platforms, but on most you can. If so, you'll receive an email 48 hours before the loan ends, or you can log in to the site & click 'renew'. You can re-borrow with one click.

How do I return items?
Ebooks will return themselves, or click 'Return' in the app.

Can I reserve (place a hold on) items?
Yes, you can. If someone else has borrowed an ebook or e-audiobook you want, the 'Borrow' button will change to 'Reserve'. As soon as it's available, you'll get an email.

Why can't I find my favourite titles?
Some publishers won't let libraries buy their ebooks, or restrict the titles available. You are welcome to request titles at **parra. city/purch**, but they aren't always available to us.

Can I use my Kindle to read ebooks?
Kindles can only read Amazon ebooks. We use Epub, an open-source format readable by every other e-reader, tablet, smartphone or computer.

Do you have Overdrive?
No, Overdrive isn't one of the platforms we subscribe to. We use different platforms with comparable or better content.

Smartphones & Tablets - Library Apps

Free mobile apps are available for Android or Apple devices. Just visit *parra.city/apps* to install one.

Start by choosing Parramatta Library as your home library, then sign in with your library card and password. The RBdigital app requires you to create an account, with your email address as your username.

Once you've downloaded ebooks & e-audiobooks they're stored on your device - you don't need an internet connection.

Accessibility

You can increase or decrease text size or colour in ebooks, change the narration speed in e-audiobooks, and the app will remember where you were up to when you stop.

Eplatform ebooks can be set to display in Dyslexic Font, as well as the margins, spacing & background colour you need for easy reading. Choose 'Settings' from the ebook's menu to see what you prefer.

E-audiobooks allow people with low vision, blindness or inability to hold a book to enjoy books anytime.

Some Library Apps

Visit *parra.city/apps* to install our apps. Here are a few:

BorrowBox

Including both ebooks & e-audio-books, the BorrowBox app is very easy to use. Sign in with your library card & password, then start browsing.

BorrowBox has an excellent selection of Australian authors & content.

Beanstack

Track your reading with Beanstack & take part in reading challenges to earn badges & prizes. See your reading habits, badge collection, and manage your family's reading logs. Parents can take part in the popular '*1000 Books Before School*' program with your toddlers.

ePlatform

With thousands of ebooks to choose from, you're sure to find something you like on ePlatform! Sign in with your library card and password to start reading.

The collection includes everything from first readers for children to cookbooks, DIY, gardening, biographies, fiction and much more, for all ages. The books can be read in a browser or the app.
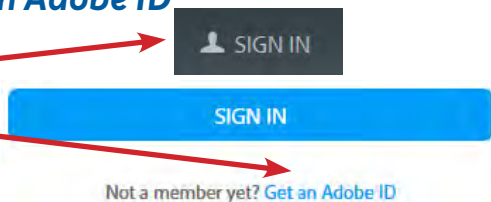
RBdigital

Interested in magazines, or want to listen to a good book? We have about 350 magazines online. They're in several languages & include titles like international editions of VOGUE, India Today, GQ China, The Economist, Better Homes & Gardens, Money & more.

Register an account with your library card in the app to start using it.

Computers - Adobe Digital Editions

If you want to read ebooks on your desktop/laptop computer, there is free software available, called 'Adobe Digital Editions'. You will also need a digital key, called an 'Adobe ID'.
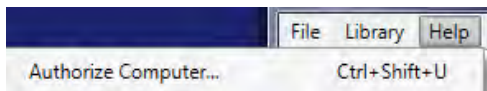
Getting an Adobe ID

- Go to *www.adobe.com*
- Click Sign In.
- Click Get an Adobe ID.
- Fill in the form, then agree to the terms and conditions.
- Check your email account for the activation email.
- Your Adobe ID is your email address and the password you chose on the Adobe site.

Installing Adobe Digital Editions

Adobe Digital Editions is a free ebook reader program, available for PCs and Mac computers. Installation only takes a few minutes, then you're ready to start reading. We recommend using the ADE 3.0 version, as there are serious bugs for library readers in the newer version.

- Go to *http://adobe.ly/1MFd0ms*
- Download & install either the Windows or Macintosh version.
- After you have installed Adobe Digital Editions, click on **Help** then **Authorize Computer**. Enter your Adobe ID. You're ready to read ebooks!
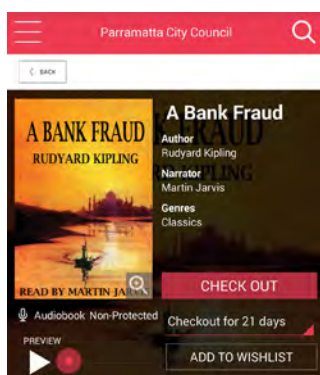
Sony & Kobo E-Readers

If you prefer to use an e-reader, you can borrow one from the library or use your own. Talk to the library's Tech Team for help getting set up & using an e-reader for the first time.

E-Audiobooks

Prefer your book read to you? Many books are now narrated. Use the BorrowBox & RBdigital apps to choose a book, download it & start listening.

Visit **parra.city/apps** to install the apps, then sign in.

You have to create an account in the RBdigital app first, but with BorrowBox you can just sign in with your library card and password.

Once you've signed in, browse the list. You can Preview the audiobooks to find one you like, then click Check Out or Borrow. The audiobook is loaned to you and ready to start downloading & play.

The audiobooks you've borrowed are shown in your list, ready to listen to.

Whenever you start listening to an audio-book, it will download each chapter to your device in order and play them back at any time, on- or off-line.

BorrowBox & RBdigital are separate book publishers, with different book collections; both include great Australian authors.

Ebooks

With over 20,000 ebooks available between BorrowBox, RBdigital and ePlatform, we have something to read for all ages and tastes. All you need is a library card and password. Visit *parra.city/apps* to find links to each platform.

Ebooks are easiest to read using an app on a tablet or smartphone, or you can read in a computer browser like Chrome or Firefox. You can return them early, or they'll return themselves on the due date without you lifting a finger.

Reading Offline

All the apps store your ebooks to read offline: whether you're on a plane, a train, or a cruise ship! If you want to read offline on a laptop or desktop PC, install Adobe Digital Editions (see pg 7). When you borrow an ebook, click 'Reading Options' then 'Read via Adobe'. This will

View all reading options for this title

Read via Adobe

download a small file to your computer which, when opened, will prompt Digital Editions to download the ebook. After that, it's stored on your computer for easy reading until the three-week loan is up.

Renewing

Ebooks can be renewed for another three week loan, either by clicking on the 'Renew' button in the app, or, if you receive a reminder, click on the link in it and the 'renew' button on the ebook's web page.

ONLINE MAGAZINES

Many different magazines are available online for library members. They can be read via the website or the RBdigital mobile app, for use with phones or tablets.

Using RBdigital for the first time

Go to *parra.city/apps* and install the RBdigital app for your device.
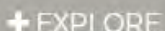
Click on Register then enter your details.

Reading magazines

Click Sign In when you return, to see your magazine reading history & borrow more.

SIGN IN

Click Explore to find what you want.

+ EXPLORE

Click on any cover to look at the collection of issues for that title.

The current issue's cover is at the top. Click Checkout to borrow it and start reading.

✓ CHECKOUT

The back issues are shown below the current one. You can read any of them just by clicking on their covers.

The magazines are fairly large files - it may take a while to download an issue to your device, especially if you're using Wi-Fi. It will download page-by-page, so you can start reading straight away, but make sure you have the last page before you disconnect from Wi-Fi.

Beanstack Reading Tracker

Track how many books you've read, how long you spend reading, receive suggestions for books you may enjoy, and enter competitions to win prizes, all using the Beanstack reading tracker!

Available as both a website & an app, Beanstack is used for City of Parramatta Library's reading programs. Whether it's 1000 Books Before School, Summer Reading Club for kids & teens, or Summer Reads for adults, you can log it all.

Visit *https://parralibrary.beanstack.org* and register. If you're registering your child, enter your details & then your child's. You'll be presented with reading programs you're eligible for.

Once you've chosen a program, click 'Log reading' and start typing the name of the book you've just read, then choose it from the suggestions. Or, just scan the barcode in-app with your phone to find & add it.

If you use the Beanstack Tracker app, you can log reading with just a couple of buttons, or library activities or challenges you took part in.

Online Library for Kids

Our online library has a huge range of choices ready for you, from picture books & educational games for toddlers, to help with homework for students of all ages, & lots of fun personal reading for kids & teens! Find the collection at *parra.city/online*.

Story Box Library

Watch great children's stories read by some of Australia's best storytellers in your own home and at a time convenient to you. Just follow the link from the Online Library page.

Premier's Reading Challenge

Looking for Premier's Reading Challenge books? We have hundreds of PRC ebooks for all age categories. Just go to *parra.city/online* and click 'Ebooks', then scroll down to choose a book and start reading.

Busy Things

Busy Things encourages learning through play for ages 3-11. Starting with easy word, number and shape games, it progresses through English, maths and science - all aligned to the NSW curriculum.

LiteracyPlanet

LiteracyPlanet is a fun, motivational literacy learning program designed for 3-15 year olds. The program begins at pre-school and continues to Year 10 level.

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

Whether you're in Year 1 or Year 12, we've got something to help you succeed. Stuck on an assignment? We can help you find answers. Need help with homework? We've got you covered. Can't get that essay to sound right? We can help with that, too. All these and more are at *parra.city/online*.

Homework Help & Essay Feedback

Students in years 3-12 can connect live to teachers in subjects you need help with - all you need is your library card. Pick your year & subject, then get individual assistance.

Need to polish an essay? You can upload your draft & get it back in 1-2 days (depending on how many essays they're reading) with feedback on how you can improve.

Study Resources

World Book & *Britannica* encyclopedias are both available in a fun, simplified version for younger kids & an easily-usable version for students. They include guides on how to quote the source, if your teacher checks references, as well as having pictures you can include in your work.

Some of the other resources available 24/7 from home include *Ancient & Medieval History, Today's Science, Issues & Controversies* and even sites like the *Australia/New Zealand Points of View Reference Centre*, which helps you examine both sides of an argument when you're preparing an essay.

Learning English

Learning or improving your English? We can help.

Visit **parra.city/englishonline** to see a series of videos we've made. After the videos, take a look at the resources which you can access with your library card.
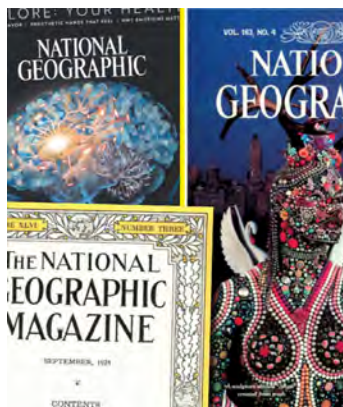
Whether you're preparing to study English, need help with pronunciation, or want to improve your reading skills, they're all available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

National Geographic

Tavel without leaving home, and find wonders of the world you've never imagined. With the *National Geographic Virtual Library* you can read over 130 years of National Geographic magazine, with breathtaking photographs.

Spark your child's curiosity with *National Geographic Kids*, and *National Geographic: People, Animals & the World* is there to help you plan your next great adventure.

For Booklovers

Looking for your next great read? Check out what we've got for you at *parra.city/readerspace*. These are some of the sites we use and recommend to find good books, great authors, and interesting new series like the ones you enjoy.

For Younger Readers

PK Mag lets kids and parents read about great new books and have fun with games, puzzles and articles. SpineOut Online is a place where teens can express ideas and thoughts and share creativity in words, art, film or music.

"Reading gives us somewhere to go when we have to stay where we are."
- Mason Cooley

For the Young at Heart

Our Parra Reads blog (*parra.city/reads*) has book-lists, reviews, author events and Book Club info. If you love a book, write a review!

parra.city/readerspace includes links to several sites you can access with your library card. Looking for a good book? Use *Novelist* to look for books by author, title, series, plot description or readership level.

Who Else Writes Like? is designed to answer the question "I've read all the books by my favourite authors, who shall I read next?" *Who Next?* does the same for your child.

Connect Participate Learn

CITY OF PARRAMATTA LIBRARIES

June 2020