

## Libraries Open Their Digital Doorways

by **Kaimi Rose Lum**

Greetings from the Snow Library staff. We may not be seeing you at the circ desk or in the reading room or at reference or the Lego table, but we're thinking of you and hoping you're well and safe and curled up at home with something good to read—maybe an eBook, borrowed with the Libby app. Or maybe you've discovered the pleasures of audiobooks. It's possible that the pandemic could convert the severest of technophobes into devoted patrons of the virtual library. With public libraries shuttered across the state, we're all learning much more about the amazing range of materials available electronically, from popular new fiction and non-fiction to downloadable music, movies and magazines.

At this librarian's house, we're using devices more than ever before: FaceTime to keep the kids connected to their teachers, friends and extended family; a borrowed iPad to schedule video chats with classmates and access learning apps. On a break one day I thought I'd check out an audiobook and in a few minutes, after signing in to my account on the CLAMS website and following the links to Overdrive, had "Maisie Dobbs" by Jacqueline Winspear playing on my desktop computer, the lovely clipped tones of the English narrator a fitting soundtrack to our late-afternoon pot of tea.

If you're a member of a Cape Cod library and you haven't ever downloaded an audio or eBook, this is the time to try it. You just need an internet connection and your CLAMS card. Go to [info.clamsnet.org](http://info.clamsnet.org) and click on the Overdrive button on the right, under the "Access to eBooks and eAudios" heading. Once you're on the Overdrive page, sign in to your account using your card number and PIN (if you can't remember your pin, you can reset it on the log-in page). Then scroll down, browse, and borrow away. You may also place holds on items, just as you do with a material book. And if you don't yet have a CLAMS library card, you may sign up for a temporary e-card on the CLAMS site.

If you're having trouble or need support, send us an email through our website at [snowlibrary.org](mailto:snowlibrary.org). Or leave a voicemail at 508-240-3760. Staff are checking for phone and email messages regularly.

Many other useful and entertaining resources are available online through our website. Are you a parent of a young child missing the library's weekly story hour? Go to [snowlibrary.org](http://snowlibrary.org) and scroll

down under "News and Notices" to "Online Storytime." There you'll find links to authors reading their own books and others' work out loud, famous people reading children's books, even astronauts reading from outer space.

You'll also find, under "News and Notices" on our website, a link to "Lunch Doodles with Mo Willems." Every day the popular children's author-illustrator (creator of Elephant and Piggie and the very silly Pigeon) broadcasts live from his Massachusetts studio, guiding young viewers through fun drawing exercises and

teaching the A-B-C's of art, plus relating interesting anecdotes about his own experiences as an artist and writer.

If you're a Snow Library patron, check out our "Digital Resources and Databases" in the menu on the left-hand side of our website for access to newspaper databases (the New York Times and Boston Globe), magazines (dozens of titles available through RB Digital) and music. Click on "Freegal" and enter your card number to stream songs, symphonies, Renaissance madrigals, Broadway showtunes, whatever lifts your mood.

Libraries across the state and nation are removing barriers to digital resources as they're forced to close their buildings. The Boston Public Library is allowing temporary at-home access to a host of online tools, including Ancestry Library Edition, a genealogy database; Artstor, a digital art collection containing millions of images compiled from museums, photographers, scholars, and artists' estates; AudioBookCloud; GALE research databases; even an interactive kindergarten-readiness program called Miss Humblebee's Academy. All of these wonderful programs can be at your fingertips in about three minutes—the time it takes to apply for an e-card on the Boston Public Library website.

Finally, for high school and college students displaced from the campus by the public health crisis, the Internet Archive last week established a National Emergency Library to provide digitized books and materials to students and the public. The collection "supports emergency remote teaching, research activities, independent scholarship, and intellectual stimulation" while schools, universities and libraries are closed. To start browsing, visit [archive.org/details/nationalemergencylibrary](http://archive.org/details/nationalemergencylibrary).

Health, good wishes and good reading to all.

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