



Name: Circulation Policy

Approved: July 28, 2014, by Franklin Public Library Board of Trustees; revised July 25, 2022; revised October 27, 2025

Policy:

Franklin Public Library (FPL) adheres to the principle of free access to information for everyone. This circulation policy ensures that such access is preserved for the residents of the City of Franklin and Milwaukee County. A core service of FPL is to loan items to individuals in the community, and to provide access to certain digital resources, according to the guidelines set forth in this policy and the requirements of the Milwaukee County Federated Library System (MCFLS).

Confidentiality:

To facilitate circulation of print and digital resources, the library maintains a database of registered borrowers. Wisconsin State Statute 43.30 protects the privacy of library users. Please refer to FPL's Privacy Policy for more information on how the library handles privacy concerning its users. Confidentiality extends to information sought or received, and items consulted, borrowed or acquired, and includes database search records, registration records, and all other personally identifiable uses of library items.

Library Cards:

FPL cards may be issued at no cost to anyone living within Milwaukee County, with proof of residency.

Any patron applying for a library card shall sign a responsibility statement which reads:

I accept responsibility for all fines, damages and loss associated with the use of this card.

The library requires that a parent or guardian must sign for children under the age of 16. They are responsible for their minor child(ren)'s use of library items as noted above.

Library staff may deny borrowing privileges or use of digital resources to cardholders:

- With overdue items not returned,
- With outstanding fines or fees in excess of \$10.00, and/or
- For lack of address verification.

Library cards must be renewed every two years. There is no charge to renew a card, though patrons must provide address verification and clear all outstanding fines and fees.

Special Library Cards:

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- **Intersystem Borrowing:** MCFLS has intersystem service agreements with the following Wisconsin library systems: Indianhead, Nicolet, Outagamie/Waupaca, and Winding Rivers. Any resident of those systems, with a valid library card from any of their member libraries, may apply for an FPL card which may be used at any MCFLS member library.
- **Fee Cards:** Patrons residing outside Milwaukee County shall be allowed to borrow FPL items with the purchase of a fee card for \$75 per year. This card will allow family borrowing privileges at FPL restricted to FPL items, including staff-assisted holds. Patrons with Fee Cards may utilize self checkout.
- **Business Cards:** Corporate entities (businesses, governmental agencies, or trade organizations) located within the City of Franklin may register for an FPL card. The entity assumes responsibility for all items borrowed in its name. Business cards are valid for one year and a new application must be completed annually. Borrowing privileges are restricted to business-related items owned by FPL and the Milwaukee Public Central Library, including staff-assisted holds. Self checkout is not available for Business cards.
- **Center Cards:** These cards are issued to schools, nursing facilities, and day care centers located within the City of Franklin. The entity assumes responsibility for all items borrowed in its name. Center cards are valid for one year and a new application must be completed annually. Borrowing privileges are restricted to FPL and its items, including staff-assisted holds. Self checkout is not available for Center cards.
- **Teacher Cards:** Educators working at schools in the City of Franklin may apply for a Teacher card with proof of employment. Teacher cards are valid for one year. Borrowing privileges are restricted to school-related items owned by FPL, including staff-assisted holds. FPL reserves the right to limit the quantity of items checked out on a given subject. This allows all children equal access to information on a subject. Self checkout is not available for Teacher cards.

Loan Periods:

- **21 Day Loan Period:**
 - Fiction and nonfiction books
 - EXPRESS nonfiction books
 - Music on CD
 - Audiobooks
 - Book & audio kits
- **7 Day Loan Period:**
 - EXPRESS fiction books
 - Periodicals
 - All nonfiction and feature films on DVD
 - Library of Things collections
- **5 Day Loan Period**
 - Explorer Passes
- **3 Day Loan Period:**
 - EXPRESS DVDs
 - Explorer Passes during designated high-use periods of the year
- Selected items may be further limited as designated by professional staff (e.g., seasonal items with heavy demand, curricula support, etc.).
- FPL maintains uniform loan periods with other MCFLS libraries as is feasible.

- There is a 3-day grace period on overdue items loaned for 7 or 21 days, with the exception of Library of Things collections.
- There is no grace period on 3- or 5-day loan items.
- Library items may be returned at any time via the library's drive-up book drop, or via the internal book drop during normal library hours.
- Designated library items must be picked up and returned at Franklin Public Library.
- To accommodate patron travel, loans may be extended up to 63 days (9 weeks) on items not new to FPL or on hold for another patron.
- Reciprocal Borrowing and Interlibrary Loan: Loan periods for items borrowed from other libraries are determined by the lending library.
- Renewals:
 - If not on hold for another patron, most items may be renewed for two additional loan periods. Some items may be renewed for a third period at the discretion of the Librarian-in-Charge.
 - If the item to be renewed is overdue, fines will be assessed.
 - EXPRESS, 3-day or 5-day loan items, and all Library of Things collections may not be renewed.

Fines:

- A 3-day grace period is allowed on all items which circulates for 7, 21 or more days, with the exception of Library of Things collections (see below). Each day thereafter, a fine of 10¢ per day, per item, will be assessed from the original due date.
- There is no grace period on Library of Things collections. The fine is \$1.00 per day overdue.
- Effective January 1, 2026, there are no fines on Children's and Young Adult materials, with the exception of the Read Aloud and Library of Things collections.
- \$5.00 is the maximum fine per item.
- Overdue fines shall not exceed the replacement cost of the item.

Please refer to FPL's Replacement Policy for information on how the library assesses fees relating to lost and damaged items.

Non-Circulating Items:

As often as possible, all items will be available for circulation to library patrons. Access, however, is limited on the following:

- Items designated as REFERENCE
 - With the approval of the Library Director or designee, certain items may be loaned overnight.
 - REFERENCE items may be sent to another MCFLS library for in-house use by their patrons.
- Current editions of periodicals
- Items too fragile or cumbersome to be easily circulated
- Selected special collections, including local history