
Library Welcomes Downloadable Audio Books

by Susan F. Whitt

The Mary Livermore Library strives to keep abreast of the various formats used to provide information to patrons. As a response to user requests, the Library recently purchased more book titles on CDs and invites you to come in and browse these titles housed in the Library. The Library is excited to move into the world of downloadable audio books. With the help and support of NC LIVE, the Library has joined with a group of North Carolina libraries to form a consortium to purchase downloadable audio books. This group has been named SEAL, which is the acronym for Shared E-Audio Library. With the start of a new fiscal year, more titles are in the process of being purchased. NC LIVE is providing the platform so there is no additional cost for this. Moreover, the Library always will have ownership of these titles. There is no yearly cost to continue to maintain ownership of purchased books and any money spent will not be lost. All titles purchased are jointly shared, which increases the titles that are offered to our users.

In addition to those titles which will be purchased by SEAL, more than 500 new downloadable audio books have been added to the current NC LIVE holdings of downloadable audio books and are currently ready for listening. Patrons have free, online access to a collection of approximately 1300 audio books, which are compatible with most iPods and MP3 devices. These audio books are accessible from the Library or from home. Subjects in the NC Live collection include language learning, classic literature, history, and biography. SEAL will focus on purchasing bestsellers and current reading.

Access to these audio books is from the Library's website at <http://www.uncp.edu/library/>. Click on the link Electronic Resources. Go to Databases by Title and click on "M." Then click on MyiLibrary. If you are accessing this from home you will be asked to identify yourself with your University ID and your library account password. Once you are on the MyiLibrary homepage, you will have the option to browse titles by subject or all titles. You will need to set up an account in order to check out an audio book. Once this is done, you will be given the option to download, save, and install Ingram Media Manger to your PC or MAC computer. After Media Manager is installed, just click on it to get your title and it will be downloaded chapter by chapter. At the end of the download, you will be asked if you want to play or transfer to an iPod, chip, or other device to listen "on the go." It is a very straightforward transfer. This conversion to a portable device needs some time but is very clear-cut. Each audio title can be checked out for seven days. Options are available to contact NC LIVE for assistance if necessary. There are easily available telephone numbers to call if you are having specific technical problems such as setting up your account.

A particularly nice feature with these titles is that they are playable on your PC, as well as downloadable to iPods or MP3 players. Portable devices such as Window's mobile or palm devices can also play them. Please let the Library know of suggestions for improving these services as you enjoy this new media outlet.

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