

# HOW LITERATE ARE YOU?

by Sarah Smith

Literacy is a term most often associated with reading and writing, but the word literacy also refers to the grasp of a subject. This definition points to many different specific types of literacy. In the next three newsletters we are going to explore three of these subtypes in each. In this issue, our focus is Media Literacy, Technology Literacy, and Digital Literacy. Each of these may sound self-explanatory or basic, but much like learning to read and write, these literacies are vital to navigating our rapidly expanding world. We will define the literacy type, offer a fun quiz for you to assess your literacy levels, and then share resources that are available at the BCPL to further develop or explore these skills.

Media Literacy is the ability to view, understand, and evaluate media. The key to Media Literacy is not only to consume media, but to be able to be critical of what you're taking in (Koltay, 2011). This critique is important to take into account, no matter where you are getting your media. Media is created by people, and people make mistakes. Being critical and evaluative of every piece of media that you consume ensures that you are only taking in and sharing the most accurate and honest information.

Technology Literacy is more than just the grasp of how to use technology; it is how to use technology in a specific way (Moore, 2011). For example, one might assume that technology literacy is the ability to start a computer and browse the internet, but it is more specifically the ability to use technology to do what you need to do when you need to do it (Moore, 2011). Things like knowing how to connect to a printer, knowing how to make an informative and attractive Powerpoint, or how to arrange a Zoom call are technology literacy. This literacy type also tends to develop the ability to learn how to learn more technology more easily.

Digital Literacy is where Media Literacy and Technology Literacy meet. Digital Literacy can be described as the ability to navigate a technological device in order to find, evaluate, and consume media (Boechler, 2014). This involves searching skills, critical thinking, and the ability to know what you're looking for.

These skills might seem obvious as well, but they can be hard to put into practice each time that you go looking for media.

## BUILDING LITERACY

### Questions to Consider

- Where do you get your media?
- Where do you go for tech help?
- Where would you go to find new media sources?
- Do you tend to go to the same place for all of your media and sources?

None of us can help consuming media and using technology, which is why literacy in these subjects is so important. The Blount County Public Library has the tools and resources to help you learn these literacies and continue learning. For media literacy, we have CQ Researcher, a platform for searching and finding accurate, unbiased information on subjects ranging from public health to information about social media and fact checking. For technology literacy we offer tech classes with subjects ranging from Microsoft Office skills to Monetizing Your Youtube Channel to Tablet and Smartphone basics. For digital literacy we offer social media classes, classes on spotting fake news, and resources like Tech Boomers, which features articles on how to use and develop a knowledge of different tech devices.

### Sources

Bawden, David. "Information and Digital Literacies: a Review of Concepts." *Journal of documentation* 57.2 (2001): 218–259. Web.  
Boechler, Dragon. "Digital Literacy Concepts and Definitions: Implications for Educational Assessment and Practice." *International Journal of Digital Literacy and Digital Competence (IJDLDC)* 5.4 (2014): 1-18. Web.

Koltay, Tibor. "The Media and the Literacies: Media Literacy, Information Literacy, Digital Literacy." *Media, culture & society* 33.2 (2011): 211–221. Web.  
Moore, Moore. "Technology Literacy: The Extension of Cognition." *International journal of technology and design education* 21.2 (2011): 185–198. Web.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### BLOUNT COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

*Quarterly Newsletter*

January, February, and March of 2021



### NEWS

- Board of Trustees Meetings, Closures, and Curbside Pickup Hours
- Blount County Friends of the Library Call for Volunteers

### SERVICES

- Kanopy Streaming Service
- Mobile Printing
- Curbside Service
- 5 for 5 Book Recommendations
- Hoopla and Libby
- Lynda.com is Rebranding

### PROGRAMS

- Pre-K Story Time
- Virtual Classes
- Storytime for Grown-ups
- The Seed Library Reopening

*A full list of programs and activities is available on our calendar at [blountlibrary.org](http://blountlibrary.org) as well as on our Facebook page.*

### OUTDOOR RETURNS ONLY

Please continue to return your items to the outdoor book drop located at the side of the building. We are not currently taking returns inside the building.

### 96 HOUR RETURN QUARANTINE

You may notice that your books are still remaining on your account even after you return them. This is because every item that is returned goes through a 96 hour quarantine period and then is cleaned before it goes back on the shelves. Your items remaining on your account will not prevent you from checking out new items as long as you stay within the checkout limits.



## NEED A NEW READ?

Need a new book to read, but don't know where to start? We can help with '5 for 5', our book recommendation service. You tell us 5 books or authors you like, and we can get you started on 5 more great reads! Use this form to give us a little bit of information, and we'll send some reading suggestions your way. Go to the BCPL Home page, Select Learning, Select Continuing Education, Select 5 for 5 Book Recommendations.

## Stay Connected Anywhere

Check out a hotspot for as little as \$2.00 a day and for 30 days with a no return renewal.



Learn more at [blountlibrary.org](http://blountlibrary.org)  
Look under 'How do I select hotspots from the list.'

### BOARD MEETINGS:

There is no meeting in December. Library Board of Trustees meets the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm and is open to the public. If you are interested in attending, please call to confirm the date and if the meeting will be virtual or in-person at (865)-273-1404.

### CLOSURES:

- January 1st for New Year's Day
- January 18th for Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- February 15th for President's Day

### Curbside Pickup Schedule

Tuesday 10:00 am - 7:00 pm  
Saturday 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

### Meeting Room Hours

Monday - Saturday  
9:00 am - 9:00 pm  
Sunday 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm



Laptop Checkout Coming Soon!  
Keep an eye on our social media for updates.

## THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS

The Blount County Friends of the Library are looking for volunteers to help them with donations, e-bay, book sales, and more. If you have some time and would like to be part of this organization, please call (865)-273-1451.

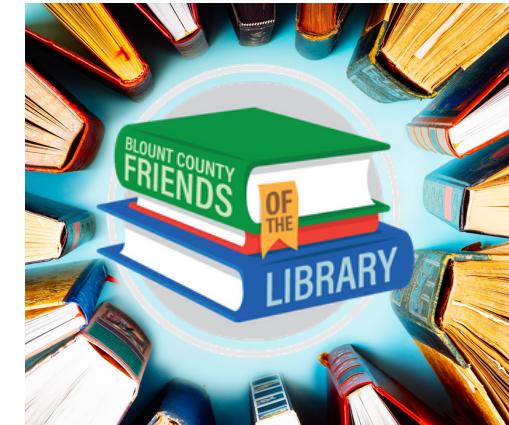
## BCFOL UPDATE

### Volunteers Needed!

#### To Apply:

Go to [bcfol.org](http://bcfol.org) and download the application. You can also get an application at the self checkout desk at the library.

**Book Sales:** Temporarily suspended. Please check out their Ebay store! Go to Ebay and search: [blountcofriendsoflibrary](http://blountcofriendsoflibrary)



## DID YOU KNOW?

### We offer Mobile Printing

Send your documents to BCPL from anywhere on any internet enabled device. To print an email message or attachment, simply forward your email to:

[bcpl-print-bw@printspots.com](mailto:bcpl-print-bw@printspots.com)

or

[bcpl-print-color@printspots.com](mailto:bcpl-print-color@printspots.com)

Make sure to include a subject line to insure that the print job goes through!



## LIBRARIAN SPOTLIGHT

At BCPL we have something to fit everyone's expertise, but did you know that we also have our own experts? This time we want to highlight our resident tech expert and Adult Services Librarian, AJ. AJ is the one to visit if you're having trouble with your Kindle or laptop. Come and see him or any of our Adult Services Librarians for help!



## CLASSES

Free technology classes are offered in a variety of topics such as MS Office products, Google apps, social media, and more. Course descriptions and schedules are available on our website. All computer classes will be held virtually on the Zoom platform until further notice due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. To register, go to [blountlibrary.org](http://blountlibrary.org) and hover over the learning tab. Technology Classes is located under the continuing education column. for questions or assistance please call (865)982-0981.

## OPEN ONLINE 24/7

### Virtual Programs

You don't have to be at the library to enjoy our programs and resources. Visit our website for everything from streaming services to research tools. Catch Story Times on Facebook and view our lectures, Storytime for Grown-ups, and many of our other programs on our YouTube channel. Have something you want to learn? Check out our list of classes, now offered virtually.



## ENTERTAINMENT AND BEYOND AT BCPL

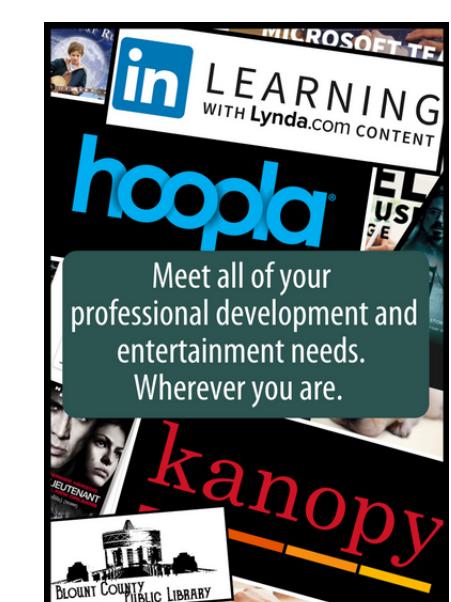
### Changes on the Horizon

In March and April, Lynda.com content is rebranding as LinkedIn Learning! You'll still have full access with your BCPL Library card. Go to the BCPL Home page, Select Learning, Select E-Resources, Select Lynda / LinkedIn Learning.



### Kanopy

We have added a new entertainment platform to our growing list! Kanopy is a video streaming service free with your BCPL Library Card. Each month you have 5 viewing credits, 1 great course, and unlimited children's programming. This resets on the first day of every month, renewing your credits. Log in by going to the BCPL Home page, Select Learning, Select E-Resources, Select Kanopy Video Streaming Service.



## LEARNING WITH [Lynda.com](http://Lynda.com) CONTENT

## FOLLOW US



### Take BCPL with you anywhere

Find us on social media or in the App Store! Just search for **Blount County Public Library**. Don't forget to download the Hoopla, Kanopy, and Libby apps for on the go entertainment!