

Lackawanna County Library System Adds E-Books

People who use electronic readers can now get e-books for their devices from the Abington Community Library free of charge and without leaving the comforts of home. The Lackawanna County Library System has started a collection of e-books with an initial purchase of nearly 800 titles. They can be borrowed at the Library System's website, www.lclshome.org or from the Abington Community Library website www.lclshome.org/abington. E-books are available to anyone who has a Lackawanna County Library System library card. Library cards can be obtained by visiting any the Abington Community Library. Library director Leah Rudolph states, "E-books can be downloaded any time of the day or night, even when the libraries are closed." The current e-book collection includes mysteries and other fiction plus popular non-fiction titles, with titles based on what's in demand at our libraries in print editions and audio books. Accessing e-books through the Library System's eCatalog is easy. A patron opens the system website and selects an icon that says "Download eBooks." That opens the e-Catalog where he or she can select titles and add them to an e-cart. After browsing and selecting titles, the user proceeds to checkout. At checkout, the borrower will be asked to enter their user ID. That's a unique number that appears on the back of each library card. With that done, the selected books are downloaded. There is also a one-time download of free software to enable the process. Like print books, e-books are borrowed for specified periods of time. At the end of the loan period, the book is automatically returned to the library site. That means no late fees. E-books from the library are compatible with PC and MAC computers and most popular e-readers and portable electronic devices including Barnes & Noble's Nook, Apple's iPad, iPhone and iPod, Sony Readers, and others. The notable exception is Amazon's Kindle. However, Amazon and Overdrive recently announced an agreement that will add Kindle to the list by year's end.