

Dear Community,

I have a responsibility to be transparent about our decision-making regarding changes to library collections. After analyzing collection use from the last 18 months, **our collections team decided to eliminate Hoopla from our suite of downloadable materials.**

Hoopla will be available through September 30, 2021, after which it will be discontinued.

I imagine you might be thinking:

“Hoopla has the best content, can you get rid of MontanaLibrary2go instead?”

“As a taxpayer, I need Hoopla because I can’t afford Netflix.”

“The other downloadable services are bad because you have to wait so long for your items.”

“You add and take away too many things, it’s confusing.”

“The library should only have digital materials, people today don’t read printed books anyway.”

“Hoopla was the only reason I even wanted a library card. Now what can I watch and read?”

“Why can’t you just stop spending in another area so we can keep Hoopla?”

Beginning in Spring 2020, the library made the decision to spend more of our collection budget to digital resources. This was in response to the many disruptions to our regular services due to the pandemic when taxpayers still needed access to information. Importantly, we made this shift in our collections without an increase to our materials budget.

We have a duty to make financially responsible decisions. Hoopla is a pay-per-use product. If we kept it, Hoopla would occupy 30% of our collections budget, and despite its popularity, only accounts for 6% of our total circulation.

The last year has demonstrated that there is high demand for both digital and print collections in Flathead County, and we have a responsibility to offer access in the format that taxpayers want and need. However, we lack the actual budget to satisfy demand for Hoopla titles. We are fortunate to participate in a sharing system for MontanaLibrary2go, which keeps costs low.

In our effort to provide essential services, we have a responsibility to choose the most cost-effective services with our budget. Hoopla is expensive. **In order to meet demand from our patrons, we would need \$60,000 more dollars this year than we actually have.**

We will continue to offer for checkout:

- Downloadable eBooks & audiobooks via MontanaLibrary2Go
- DVD movies and TV shows
- Music CDs
- Audiobooks in CD format

- High-quality collections of popular print books

I know that this decision will negatively impact some of you, and I need to hear from you. What are we missing? Please contact me with your concerns and ideas.

Martha Furman
Interim Library Director