Beginning January 1, 2020, the library will be updating its countywide borrowing policy to expand access for out-of-county Pennsylvania residents. This change will guarantee any person who lives in the state of Pennsylvania the ability to access physical materials from any Berks County Public Library.

As a result of the update to the borrowing policy, current out-of-county residents who use a Berks County Public Libraries card may see some changes to their digital services. Please ask a library staff member if you have questions.

**Number of Pennsylvania residents referenced from the April 1, 2020 Census data.**
https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/PA/PST045223

All Berks County residents and those who work or learn in Berks County can obtain a Adult/Juvenile three-year (full service) library card and receive access to all library materials and services provided by Berks County Public Libraries. This includes the following resources:

**Physical Materials**
Full-service library cardholders can access and borrow physical materials including but not limited to books, DVDs, CDs, audiobook discs, museum passes, etc.

**Digital Media Services**
Full-service library cardholders can access countywide digital services and any specialty resources provided by their registered library. This includes Libby/OverDrive and other online databases.

**Inter-Library Loan (ILL)**
Full-service library cardholders may request materials available from other libraries outside of Berks County. Certain restrictions may apply. Please speak to a library staff member for more information.

All Pennsylvania residents may now register for a Adult/Juvenile one-year (limited service) library card for **FREE** at any Berks County Public Libraries location. Limited-service cards allow cardholders to borrow physical materials from any library but do not allow access to digital media or inter-library loan services.

**Physical Materials**
Limited-service library cardholders can access and borrow physical materials including but not limited to books, DVDs, CDs, audiobook discs, museum passes, etc. Non-standard item loan periods, including loans from the Library of Things collection, are set by owning libraries. Some limitations may apply.

**Digital Media Services**
Limited-service library cardholders will not be able to access digital services provided by any Berks County Public Library. This includes Libby/OverDrive and other online databases.

**Inter-Library Loan (ILL)**
Limited-service library cardholders will not be able to utilize the inter-library loan service to request materials from other libraries outside of Berks County.

**WHAT?**

**WHY?**

Nearly 9% of current Berks County library patrons live outside of the county. The previous policy restricted who could receive free access, so we’re expanding borrowing privileges to **ALL PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS** for physical materials, ensuring our resources are freely accessible to more people.