



Library Card Rules/Non-Resident Cards

The Mattoon Public Library is a city wide public library. People who reside within the corporate limits of the City of Mattoon pay taxes to support the general funding of the library. These taxes are paid when a home or business owner pays property taxes. People who live within the jurisdictional boundaries of Mattoon (including people who rent apartments or houses) do not have to pay an additional fee for a library card: the tax paid supports their library usage. Identification, including proof of address (driver's license, lease agreement, utility bill, etc.), will have to be shown in order to obtain a library card.

Library cards can also be issued for people who do not live within the corporate limits, but who do own property within Mattoon. A recent property tax bill showing the tax paid to the Library Fund, along with identification, will have to be shown in order to obtain a library card.

People who do not reside in or own property in the corporate limits of the City of Mattoon do not pay taxes to support the library. A non-resident card, which will enable the owner to use the Mattoon Library and libraries near us, will have to be purchased annually. The current cost of the nonresident library card is \$75. The card will enable the entire family to make full use of the library. It is an Illinois state law that library users who do not reside within the boundaries of the library district must pay a fee (roughly comparable to the tax an average homeowner pays annually) in order to borrow items from the library.

The fee is calculated by the General Mathematical Formula, one of three ways the State of Illinois permits non-resident fees to be calculated. It is: to determine the minimum non-resident fee, a local library should divide the library income from local property tax sources or its equivalent by the local population to determine the cost of service per capita. The library should multiply the per capita figure by the average number of persons per household in the community to obtain the average cost per household on which to base a fee for a family card. The most recent federal census information available shall be used in determining population and household size.

Unfortunately, the corporate limits of Mattoon do not match that of the Mattoon school district. It is possible to reside within the school district boundaries but to not be residing in the library's district. If you do not see a tax paid to the library fund on your property tax bill, you are not paying to support the library.

Even if you choose not to purchase a family card, you are still able to access many of the services that the library provides: access to the Internet, reading our magazines and books in the library, taking your children to story-times, visiting for any special programs the Library provides, or asking any of our friendly librarians a question.

If there is a financial hardship to paying for a non-resident card, the Mattoon Public Library partners with Reader's Bridge to help facilitate this need. Reader's Bridge is a local non-profit that will pay 90% of the non-resident fee for a family needing assistance.

If you have any questions or concerns about the requirements to get a library card, please contact the Director of the Library, Ryan A. Franklin. She can be reached at 234-2621, or you may email her at ryan@mattoonlibrary.org.