

## Not Your Mother's Library Transcript

### Episode 36: Back to School

(Brief intro music)

Rachel: Hello, and welcome to Not Your Mother's Library, a readers' advisory podcast from the Oak Creek Public Library. Well, technically, this episode doesn't have any reading recommendations, per se, but I will be recommending a lot of stuff! Anyway, I'm Rachel, and I'm excited to dive in. All right-y, so, August is National Back to School Month, which is weird for me to talk about now that I haven't been in school for some time. Getting older is a trip. But I do wish, retroactively, that I had used the public library a lot more than I did back then. It's a great resource! For one, library cards open doors to materials that aren't necessarily part of your school's library. OCPL even provides Access Cards to Oak Creek teachers and out-of-county students who otherwise could not checkout materials from us. In order to get more info about that unique program, our Access Services Manager, Sarah, will give us all the deets! Sarah has leant us her unique talents a handful of times already, way back in episode four when we talked about our favorite LGBTQ literature. Then again in episode five, she came on with Jill—our Library Director—to talk about the art of happiness and self-help books. Last but not least, she joined us for episode twelve, which we dubbed 'the Meta Episode' because it was all about podcasts. Here she is to explain the who-what-and-why of Access Cards!

Sarah: The Oak Creek Public Library is a part of the Milwaukee County Federated Library System, or MCFLS for short. In the past, folks who lived\*outside of Milwaukee County were not able to use the materials found at our library unless they purchased a Family Fee Card. Several years ago, our library administration team decided to make some alterations to our Fee Card program, and so Access Cards came into being! If you work or go to school in the City of Oak Creek, you are now able to get a free Access Card. This card does not have an annual fee associated with it and is valid for one year from date of registration, but otherwise functions just like our Fee Cards. It is somewhat limited in its use; the card can only be used at the Oak Creek Public Library to check out items owned by the Oak Creek Public Library. Also, your home community library is where you will still have to go to get access to digital databases and materials. Those are the things you find on Libby, Overdrive, or Hoopla, or throughout the online database collections. However, what you do have access to is the thousands of materials that we hold in our building including books, movies, CDs, audiobooks, video games, and more! So, if you live outside of Milwaukee County but you work at any business or you teach or attend any accredited school

or daycare located within the borders of the City of Oak Creek—including the MATC Oak Creek Campus—stop by the library and sign up for an Access Card! We will be happy to help you find what you are looking for.

Rachel: Thanks again to Sarah for sharing that info. If you have any questions about the Oak Creek Public Library's Access Card program, reach out to her or any of our other helpful clerks at the first-floor service desk. We don't just offer books for checkout, either. If you have a regular library card, you can access numerous online resources, including some very useful databases. There will be a link to a list of these in the show notes, so keep your eyes peeled! The first that springs to my mind is one of newest—and coolest—called Brainfuse HelpNow. We sometimes get asked if the library offers tutoring services, and while we aren't really equipped for that, HelpNow is a solid alternative. If your child struggles with their assignments, HelpNow offers one-to-one homework help from live, online tutors. Better yet, it is also available for Spanish speakers. This is the ultimate tool for studying, no matter if you are writing a paper, preparing for finals, or simply need to talk to someone that will offer critical advice. And, yeah, having a library card grants you complete access at no cost. So, use it as often as you need to.

We have databases for students of all ages. High school students looking forward to graduation now have a dedicated resource which can help them earn their diploma. If your child is enrolled in an AP or International Baccalaureate class, then Advanced Placement Source is perfect for them! With full-text journals and magazine articles to round out homework assignments, they will be walking across that stage in no time. High school and college students returning to class this semester can use BadgerLink Research Guide. It offers a series of step-by-step instructions that will help users learn about the overall research process. This includes documentation, outlining, and everything in between. I recommend using it when writing a paper for history or geography class. Did you know that students have been using the Encyclopaedia Britannica for nearly 250 years? That's a lot of accumulated knowledge—and you, dear listener, can peruse it all for free! We offer Britannica Elementary, Middle, and High School, which are three separate databases specifically curated for each level of education. Search or browse for information in magazines, videos, and websites. There are graphics, games, and a lot more to keep your kid interested in whatever subject they are studying. In the same vein, Senior High Core Collection is a valuable resource for students in grades nine through twelve. It includes information about over 30,000 fiction and non-fiction titles. Need to choose a famous figure in order to write a biography? What about a historical landmark for your next presentation? Senior High Core Collection has it covered. Later this semester, you might find yourself in need of taking some practice tests. The online LearningExpress

platform is the perfect place to take a tutorial or run through some practice tests before exam day. The library also gives students a direct line to the History, Literary, Poetry, and Science Reference Centers. These are kind of self-explanatory, but altogether they comprise an almost ridiculous amount of materials. Use them for full-text articles, periodicals, and documents. There are biographies, essays, short stories, reference works, historical photos and maps, videos...I'm running out of breath! Literary Reference Center would have been my go-to as a Humanities student, but Science Reference Center touches on a lot of interesting categories for those in other disciplines, from biochemistry to astrophysics.

We also have a set of databases specifically for educators. TeachingBooks is an engaging collection of resources that brings books to life. It contains a diverse and constantly growing online collection of multimedia K-12 book and other resources that help teachers integrate books throughout the curriculum. Fun fact: We sometimes use TeachingBooks as part of DIY Book Club! This is an online, self-paced program which provides patrons with reading suggestions. The Youth Services Librarians will often select bibliographic information straight out of TeachingBooks to pair with their monthly picks. I talked a little about Explora for students, but there is also a version designed with educators in mind. It provides lesson plans, curriculum standards, and other professional development resources.

Highlighting content relevant to K-12 teachers, Explora also includes information about state curriculum standards. It gives easy access to lesson plans from something called 'ERIC'. I'm not sure what that is, but it's probably useful. Teachers, do you want even more in the way of lesson plans? BadgerLink has put together six, standards-aligned lesson plans that will give you ideas that can immediately be used in your classroom. These documents are available to view and download right off of Google Drive. I don't know very much about this next database so, bear with me, because I stole the description straight from the listing: "MAS Complete is a collection of popular magazines, books, and multimedia that addresses a wide range of subject areas important for the schooling of middle and high school students." Sounds good to me! On the flipside, Professional Development Collection is targeted at college professors. It has a highly specialized collection of quality education journals, including hundreds of peer-reviewed titles and educational reports. It claims to be "the most comprehensive collection of full-text education journals in the world," which is nothing to sniff at!

Very quickly, as we approach the end of this episode, it's also worth pointing out that the library has resources for adult learners who wish to continue their education. Gale Courses and Udemy Business are free to library card holders, and they both deliver engaging, instructor-led online courses focused on

professional development, technology skills, and personal enrichment. The great thing about Udemy is that it's app-based, and all of its videos are available on-demand. There's also Transparent Language Online, which can be likened to Rosetta Stone. It provides a fun and effective experience for learners of all levels looking to build their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in over 100 different foreign languages.

That's all for today's episode. Listeners, do remember to check the show notes for a complete list of these databases, plus links to our website so that you can register for a library card and learn more about Access Cards. Please subscribe and rate the podcast if you like what you hear. You can always reach us through the Oak Creek Public Library website or Facebook page by messaging @OakCreekLibrary. Until next time, happy reading. Bye!

(Brief outro music)

Rachel: Gale Coursers...(sighs). Gale Coursers. (shuffling papers)