

10 Good Reasons for Joining Essex Libraries

1. The best start for children



It's never too early for children to start enjoying reading. We have a vast range of books for children of every age and ability, available free to borrow by the armload! Baby & Toddler times, as well as Daddy Cool sessions, are fun and enjoyable ways to encourage children to communicate and make friends.

The Summer Reading Challenge encourages reading over the summer, where children can have fun, while ensuring their reading ability doesn't dip during the holidays.

2. Information you can rely on

Ask any question on any subject and our trained staff will search a wealth of materials at their fingertips to get the answer you need. A search engine might return 10,000 'hits', but we'll give you one right answer.

We have a great range of reliable online resources as well as a vast array of up to date information books. From encyclopaedias and dictionaries, to local and national newspaper archives, our 24 hour online reference library can help you find the information you need.

3. Reading that suits your needs

With large print, ebooks, eaudio books, Audio CDs, and DVDs with subtitles, everyone can enjoy the resources of the library. Need that text a bit bigger? Want to download something for that daily commute? Get books in the format that works for you.



4. Free WiFi and Computer access

All Essex Libraries are equipped with computers, which can be reserved in advance. You can use them for an hour every day, completely free!

Alternatively, bring along your laptop and take advantage of the library's free WiFi.



5. Learn new skills



Practise your driving theory test, learn another language or improve your IT skills with the library. With staff on hand to help you find what you need, the library is a great place to learn. If you prefer, most of the resources are also available for library customers to use from home!

Essex Libraries Learning Centres offer a variety of course packages leading to recognised qualifications that can help equip you for today's job market. In many cases these courses are free.

6. Boosting children's potential

Libraries are great places to study! With knowledgeable staff nearby, great resources and free internet access available (with web filters to keep young people safe).

Research shows that reading ability boosts success in many other areas, making the library a great place for your child to get ahead.

7. Mobile libraries and home library service

Wherever you are in Essex you are never very far from a library. Our fleet of mobile libraries travels across Essex, particularly in rural areas, to reach people. If you are unable to get to one of our libraries, or to a mobile library, the Home Library Service will bring the range of library resources direct to you.



8. Activities for all the family

Our free family events are a great way to keep the kids entertained during the holidays and at the weekends. Adults can enjoy one of the many Reading Groups supported by Essex libraries, meeting other people and sharing the pleasure of reading.

9. Free Business Information



Whether you're thinking about setting up your own enterprise, or are already in business, we can provide reliable and up-to-date information to support the decisions you need to make.

10. Community spaces open to all

Libraries are for everyone – come into any one of our 73 libraries and find accessible buildings with friendly staff, and comfortable surroundings. Perfect for meeting up with friends, reading the newspaper, or just sitting down with a book and taking some time out.