



Press Release
For Immediate Release

Second Campaign Kicks off Sept. 8 to Increase Awareness of Complementary Services College and County Libraries Offer

Join Both Libraries with Ease

College Library Open Late County Library Offers Many Current Movies and Books

Students and community residents will once again have the opportunity to use their county library and the St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM) Library. The SMCM library and the St. Mary's County Public Library will jointly host their second campaign for students and area residents to easily obtain a library card from both institutions. From Sept. 8-19, college students, faculty, and staff can sign up for a county library card at the circulation desk of the SMCM library. Local residents can, in turn, get an SMCM library card at the Lexington Park Library in Lexington Park, Maryland. The campaign is designed to increase student and local resident awareness that each library system has unique, complementary services to offer the other's card holders.

"The SMCM library is pleased to be able to offer our facility, resources, and services to library users from the local community," said Celia Rabinowitz, Ph.D., director of Library and Media Services for SMCM. "We enjoy seeing our local borrowers in the library. Public libraries are one of the most important public institutions a community can have and the Lexington Park Public Library is a great resource."

Last year, more than 30 county residents took advantage of the campaign to sign up for a college library card. Local residents with an SMCM library card benefit from the college's academic collection and in-house access to the library's databases and computers. Those in need of a computer or library help after public libraries close will find the college's later hours of operation convenient, closing at 1 a.m. Sunday-Wednesday. The library contains more than 80 research databases, including online newspapers (new and historical), online academic journals, legal resources, and electronic books. The SMCM library also contains some 900 magazines and journals in print and about 5,000 videos and DVDs. Reference librarians are available for research help six days a week.

Last year, SMCM students who received their public library cards were able to take advantage of the services the public library offers. A major benefit to the students is having remote access 24/7 to the county library's free online databases. These databases provide access to newspaper archives and more than 1,900 periodicals covering a wide range of subjects including foreign language instructions and test preparations. Free downloadable movies, audio books, and e-books and self-paced technology tutorials are available from the library's homepage, www.stmalib.org. A large collection of best-selling and popular books and a broad selection of current DVDs are maintained at each of the three branches. Card holders can sign up for NextReads, a free e-newsletter containing a list of recommended titles in 22 genres.

“This partnership with the St. Mary's College Library provides us with the opportunity to introduce their students to the many online and print resources available at their local public library,” said Library Board President and SMCM economics professor Alan Dillingham. “It is also our hope that this contact will encourage a lifelong habit of using their local public libraries for learning pursuits beyond the classroom and graduation.”

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