



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG LIBRARY SURPASSES ONE MILLION E-BOOK AND AUDIOBOOK CHECKOUTS IN 2020

Library is in Top 40 for worldwide total digital circulation

Charlotte, NC – January 12, 2021 – Charlotte Mecklenburg Library announced today that it reached a record-breaking one million digital book checkouts in 2020. This accomplishment illustrates the continued growth and importance of library digital lending of e-books and audiobooks, especially in a year with building closures due to the global pandemic. Charlotte Mecklenburg Library is one of 102 public library systems worldwide that surpassed one million checkouts.

The Library has been providing readers 24/7 access to e-books and audiobooks for several years through OverDrive and its award-winning Libby reading app. Reader interest and usage has grown every year.

“The Library is committed to keeping our community engaged and educated by providing equitable and free access to both physical and digital materials,” said Caitlin Moen, Chief Customer Officer and Library Director at Charlotte Mecklenburg Library. “We’re proud to be a part of the million digital downloads, and prouder that the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community sees the value in their Library and uses our free resources to such a great extent.”

The highest-circulating title Charlotte Mecklenburg Library readers borrowed through OverDrive in 2020 was *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. The top-circulating genre, thrillers, represents the most popular in a vast catalog that also includes biographies, romance and children/young adult.

The top 5 e-book titles borrowed through Charlotte Mecklenburg Library’s digital collection in 2020:

1. *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens
2. *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo
3. *Educated* by Tara Westover
4. *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng
5. *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes

The top 5 audiobook titles borrowed through Charlotte Mecklenburg Library’s digital collection in 2020:

1. *Becoming* by Michelle Obama
2. *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens
3. *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo
4. *Talking to Strangers* by Malcolm Gladwell
5. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone* by J.K. Rowling

Readers in Mecklenburg County need a valid library card to access digital books from Charlotte Mecklenburg Library’s OverDrive-powered digital collection. Don’t have a library card? Sign up for one at cmlibrary.org/getacard

Readers can use any major device, including Apple®, Android™, Chromebook™ and Kindle®. Visit cmlibrary.org/resource/overdrive or download the Libby app to get started and borrow e-books and audiobooks anytime, anywhere.

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About Charlotte Mecklenburg Library:

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library is one of America's leading urban public libraries, serving a community of more than one million citizens in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Through 20 locations, targeted outreach and online resources, the Library delivers exceptional services and programs, with a mission to improve lives and build a stronger community. For more, visit cmlibrary.org.

About OverDrive

OverDrive strives to create "a world enlightened by reading." Serving a growing network of 65,000 libraries and schools in 84 countries, OverDrive delivers the industry's largest digital catalog of ebooks, audiobooks, magazines and other content through award-winning apps. The Libby reading app for libraries is one of Popular Mechanics' 20 Best Apps of the Decade, while the student reading app Sora is one of TIME's Best Inventions of 2019. Founded in 1986, OverDrive is based in Cleveland, Ohio USA and was named a Certified B Corp in 2017. www.overdrive.com

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