

Flexible Borrowing Options

Not all library patrons may be able to get a standard library card, either because they lack a permanent address or because, due to security issues (as in the case of child custody disputes), they do not wish to provide their contact information. Yet the library has a duty not only to be a responsible steward of city resources, but also to serve individuals. To help serve such patrons, libraries may develop flexible circulation policy options, such as issuing short-term cards (if the library requires a card for computer usage or printing, for instance), or issuing institutional cards. Issuing cards to shelters can be an extension of existing relationships that the library may already have established with other institutions, such as a nursing home or a daycare. The key to ensuring a proper balance is to make sure that someone remains liable for the materials, be it an individual, such as a director, or an agency.