



For more information, contact:

Erin Sullivan, Public Relations Administrator

sullivan.erin@ocls.info



Find the Library at Your Place During National Library Week

National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association.

(April 19, 2020 - Orlando, FL) - April 19-25, 2020 is National Library Week, a time to highlight the valuable role libraries, librarians and library workers play in strengthening communities.

Due to the temporary closure of physical library locations, Orange County Library System is using National Library Week as an opportunity to draw attention to the work it has been doing to meet customer needs in a time of crisis.

The original theme for this year's National Library Week, "Find your place at the library," was chosen before the emergence of a global pandemic that forced libraries around the nation to close their doors. The theme has been revised to "Find the library at your place" to demonstrate how libraries have remained open for business online, offering electronic resources and new digital content. For example, although Orange County's library locations were closed beginning March 18, OCLS has

continued to provide innovative services, including live online classes and virtual storytimes for students in Orange County Public Schools.

Over the past 30 days, OCLS has seen an overwhelming response from customers:

- 1,447 residents registered for new library cards (a 164 percent increase compared to the same time period last year).
- 1,043 customers attended live online classes (a 1,867 percent increase compared to the same time period last year).
- 214,144 items have been checked out through our digital books, audiobooks, video, music and magazine collections.
- 291 children have participated in virtual storytelling sessions, which were introduced in response to the need to educate children remotely during the pandemic.

OCLS invites community members who have not yet taken advantage of these resources to find the library at their place by visiting ocls.info/national-library-week. There, they can learn about the wealth of digital offerings provided for free to library cardholders.

Throughout the week, OCLS will recognize National Library Week by offering customers fun social media activities through social media. To show your support for OCLS, follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram and share your appreciation for libraries using the hashtag #learngrowconnect.

LEARN. GROW. CONNECT.

####