

HCC LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2017



[Ceramic Bowls](#)

LIBRARY NEWS

THIS MONTH AT THE HCC LIBRARY

Last month at the HCC Library we hosted Escape Week, which saw 20 students participate in a book discussion, and around 75 students, faculty, and staff participate in an Escape Room experience. Thank you all for showing such interest in these events!

This month at the Library, stop by for help with last minute research and final projects, or grab a study-buddy and pull up a seat to study for your final exams in a quiet environment!

Check out popular holiday movies like *Elf*, *Home Alone*, and *The Santa Clause* for an entertaining movie night! Or borrow a book to curl up with while the weather outside grows colder! The library has a number of novels that cross the genres, from romances to murder mysteries, from classics to science fiction.

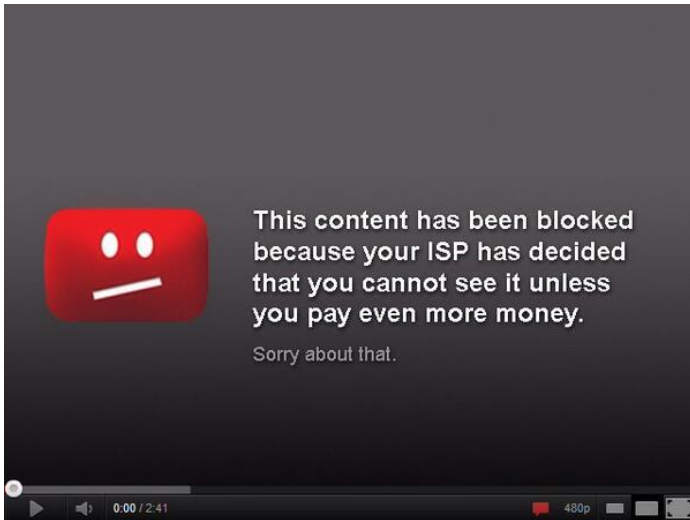
NEW INTEGRATED LIBRARY SYSTEM

Over the course of the next year, the HCC Library will work closely with PALS (our larger library system) to implement a new Integrated Library System (ILS) called ALMA. An ILS is the computer software that manages all of the library's functions, including checking items in and out, cataloging items, and interlibrary loan. The new ILS will be more streamlined, making the library's work easier, and it will be more technologically compatible with improving library standards, such as linked data, BIBFRAME, metadata, and digital collections. Most of these changes will not affect library patrons, but students, faculty, and staff will notice that the public search interface of the library catalog will gain an updated look and more functionality. Look for these changes in January of 2019!

ART AT THE LIBRARY

CERAMICS EXHIBIT

The HCC Library currently has a few pieces of student artwork from Maggie Holmes' ceramics class on display. Stop by to take a look! (Remember, the Library is in the upstairs of the G building)



NET NEUTRALITY

WHAT IT IS AND WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

Libraries across the nation are up in arms to defend Net Neutrality, an issue that is becoming more pressing as the FCC's December 14th vote looms ever closer. But despite all the buzz about this hot topic, not many people actually know what Net Neutrality actually is, much less why it is important.

Consider this: Every time we go online, we expect to have an infinite amount of information at our fingertips. We expect to be able to access sites with information on any number of topics, that reflect any number of diverse opinions. We expect to be able to watch YouTube videos and stream Netflix movies, to access our Facebook and email accounts, to tweet and snapchat and use Instagram to our hearts' content. And, because we pay our Internet Service Providers (like AT&T, Century Link, Comcast, and Mediacom) monthly fees in exchange for access to the internet, we expect to be able to access all of these sites, at no additional cost, with no road blocks thrown in our way. We expect to be in control of our time on the internet. We expect Net Neutrality.

In essence, "Net Neutrality is the basic principle that prohibits internet service providers ... from speeding up, slowing down or blocking any content, applications or websites you want to use." (Net neutrality: What you

need to know now, 2017) It's the way the internet has always worked, and in just two weeks, all of that might change.

WHAT IF WE LOSE NET NEUTRALITY?

If Net Neutrality becomes a thing of the past, the internet itself will probably not change; the information and websites will all still be there. However, the things that we can access, and the amount of money we pay to access them might.

Demolishing Net Neutrality would give internet service providers the ability to control what websites we can access, which ones get blocked, which ones have slower/faster connections, and which ones we have to pay additional fees to use. Pointing to these new issues, activists who support Net Neutrality paint a pretty bleak picture of an internet without it, but there are those on the other side of the fence as well.

WHY DEMOLISH NET NEUTRALITY?

Those who support repealing Net Neutrality defend their position by saying that based on prior legal battles, the internet should be "unfettered" by federal regulations, that Net Neutrality rules have discouraged investments, and that prior to Net Neutrality regulations, the internet worked just fine. They also point out that paid prioritization of certain websites is already part of how the internet works (though Net Neutrality does not actually factor into those types of arrangements).

Regardless of whether you stand behind Net Neutrality or want it gone, the decision will be made on December 14th, and only time will tell how this decision will affect the internet and our access to it.