

OPEN ACCESS Identification Policy

JULY 19, 2000

Reaffirmed : June 20, 2007

OPEN ACCESS is the name for a state-wide arrangement allowing citizens to borrow materials from any participating public library in Iowa when they are away from their home library. This is done by the use of appropriate identification as determined by the library from which materials are being borrowed. Materials borrowed under this arrangement may be returned directly to the lending library, or taken to any participating Iowa public library, and that library will return them to the lending library.

According to the "OPEN ACCESS Agreement", lending libraries can determine the type of acceptable identification requested from its OPEN ACCESS borrowers. At Council Bluffs Public Library, the preferred form of identification is a current and valid library card from the borrower's home library. Among other options, a current and valid OPEN ACCESS ID card can also be used.

If it is the policy of the borrower's home library not to issue library cards at all, or if the home library issues cards but retains them, we ask the patron to request from their home library either an OPEN ACCESS ID card or a library card if/when the patron indicates he/she will be using the Council Bluffs Public Library. The OPEN ACCESS ID card or the library card will allow the borrower to obtain materials from any participating public library in Iowa, as well.

Many circulation systems are automated. This ID from OPEN ACCESS borrowers is necessary to insure, for the library and the borrower, the accuracy of records needed for retrieval of materials, security, and data privacy. At the Council Bluffs Public Library, OPEN ACCESS borrowers will be issued a separate plastic, bar-coded library card for use here.