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Rapides Parish Library now offers laptops and hotspots for check out

RPL continues to work toward bridging the digital divide

Alexandria, LA, June 23, 2020. As Rapides Parish Library continues to work toward bridging the digital divide, community members will be able to checkout laptops and hotspots upon reopening. The laptops and hotspots will be available on a first come, first served basis. Borrowers may utilize the devices for up to seven days. Upon return, they must wait an additional seven days to check a laptop or hotspot out again

Access to the internet has become an essential need in our lives. Whether you would like to apply for a job, complete your taxes, or study, access to technology may be the difference between success and failure. The U.S. Census Bureau estimated that from 2014-2018 16% of Rapides Parish households did not own a computer and 24.2% did not have access to internet.

In light of these estimates, RPL has added several services to improve internet accessibility in the Rapides Parish Community. Internet on the Go is one such program in which the Library's Outreach department travels to various areas of the parish to provide hotspot internet connection to those who cannot visit the Library. The schedule for Internet on the Go can be obtained on the RPL website, or by calling any location. Additionally the Library's IT department has improved the strength and radius of Wi-Fi signals at each branch to increase connectivity not only inside of the building but to its exterior as well.

RPL is committed to increasing accessibility to technology and the internet and has taken a variety of steps to move closer to bridging the digital gap in the Rapides Parish community.

Rapides Parish Library is a community service promoting lifelong learning, enhanced quality of life, and literacy through print, audiovisual and electronic resources.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please call Jennifer Hughes at 318-451-2411 x 1060, or email jhughes@rpl.org.