

10 ways your public library can save you money

At a time when we are all feeling the pinch it's nice to know that you can go somewhere that offers you something for virtually nothing.

Here are just some of the many ways that libraries can save you money and inspire and stimulate at the same time.

Here are 10 examples:

- It's estimated that borrowing instead of buying two books and two DVDs each month could save someone more than £30.
- Planning a holiday or a day trip? Rather than buy a map or travel guide get one from the library.
- Instead of a magazine subscription visit the library and borrow them.
- School holidays can be expensive, but we have a great range of activities to do with the kids.
- Socialising isn't always cheap, but joining a reading group at any of our libraries is a cost-free way of meeting people and broadening your mind.
- You can learn a language for a fraction of the price you might pay otherwise if you borrow a selection of courses in audio format.
- Why not take up a hobby that doesn't cost you money? For instance you can research your family history at the local library with staff on hand to suggest useful sources?
- There are plenty of free ways to keep babies and toddlers amused and stimulated through activities such as singing songs and rhymes and storytelling.
- You might be using the internet for price comparison websites, but you can browse for free at the library and the staff can suggest some pages to look at.
- You can borrow a smart meter to measure your how much electricity you use at home – useful knowledge if you want to make economies.