



**Krum Public Library**  
**PO Box 780**  
**815 E. McCart St Krum, TX 76249**  
**(940) 482-3455**  
**librarian@krumlibrary.org**

# Krum Public Library Quarterly

a newsletter released by KPL staff

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The Krum Library Book Club  
meets over tea once a month

## Welcome to 2026!

### Greetings from Library Director Donna Pierce, MLS

Here we are in 2026—2025 seemed to fly right by! We had some wonderful changes at the library last year, and we're excited to share them with you.

One of the biggest updates was our **refreshed children's area**. With new shelving, a large-screen tablet, and brand-new children's computers, our youngest patrons are enjoying their visits more than ever.

We were thrilled by the installation of **roller blinds in the meeting room**, a feature which has made movie and slide presentations dramatically better. All of these improvements were funded entirely through grants and generous donations-- we are very grateful for the support that makes our library shine.

We also kept our adult patrons in mind. Thanks to another grant, we were able to add an **AED** to the library. This life-saving device supports CPR if someone's heart stops. We hope the most we'll ever need to do is keep the batteries charged—but it's reassuring to have it on hand.

Our collection expanded in exciting ways throughout the year (which you can read about on page 3).

**Here's to a wonderful 2026—may it be full of great stories, new discoveries, and many happy visits to the library.**



Looking ahead, we're already planning our **2026 Summer Reading Program—Unearth a Story**. Don't be surprised if you see dinosaurs peeking around corners! We'll kick things off with our second annual **Extravaganza on Saturday, June 6th**. From there, the summer will be filled with magicians, birds of prey, jugglers, movies, painting sessions, and more. It's shaping up to be a fun-filled adventure for all ages.





# Looking Forward

A Note from Assistant Director, Liz Schrier MLS



We hope everyone had a safe, joyful holiday season—we're excited to welcome you into a brand-new year at the Krum Public Library!

2025 was an incredible year for our library. Our staff worked hard to restore the level of service, energy, and community connection we haven't seen since before the pandemic, and the response from Krum was nothing short of amazing. **Our circulation, program attendance, and community engagement reached new heights thanks to you—our patrons, volunteers, partners, and supporters.** We're grateful for every person who walks through our doors or cheers us on from afar.

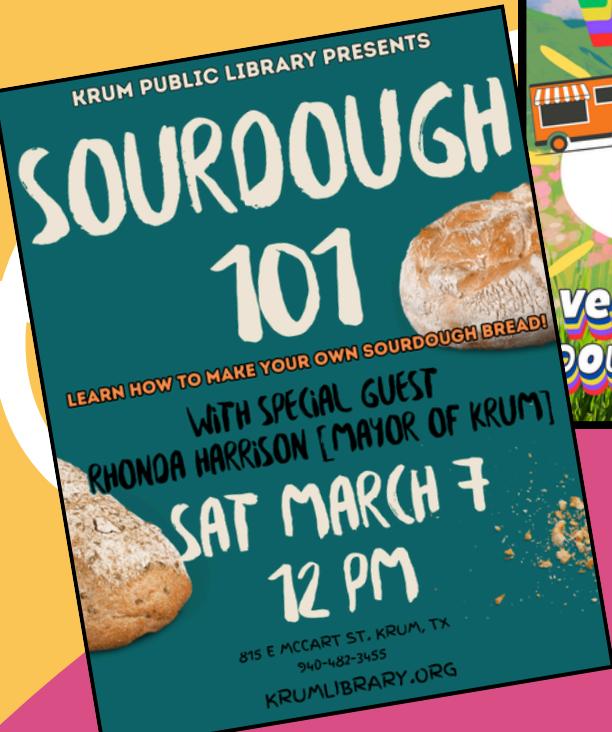
Last year brought so many memorable moments, from our collaboration with the **Krum ISD Jazz Band** to our **record-breaking Summer Reading Program**. We're fortunate to have such strong community partnerships, and we look forward to building even more in 2026.

This spring, we'll also be saying goodbye to our wonderful Director, Donna Pierce, as she retires in April. **Donna's leadership and dedication have shaped the library in countless ways**, and we know the next chapter will be built on the strong foundation she created.

**Here's to a fantastic new year together at KPL!**

## Upcoming

Events that we're excited about



# The Collection

## New Materials and Exciting Updates to the Library Catalog

We now offer a wide range of **board games** for all ages and tastes, from children's products like Hi Ho Cheeri-O, to standbys like Monopoly and Catan, to more contemporary hits like Exploding Kittens and Dix-it.

**Video games** are also available for checkout! This includes games for Nintendo Switch, Switch 2, PS5, along with a high volume of popular older games for Wii and other consoles.



New to the catalog is a growing number of **activity kits called "Learning Loot"**. These kits are filled with materials designed for learning or fun, including math kits, reading kits, and more.



We've also begun building a "**Library of Things**," so keep an eye on our website and catalog to discover all the unique items you can borrow.



If you're a puzzle lover, don't forget our **puzzle exchange**, where you can pick up a puzzle or two for free (and donate your own).

## 2025 Highlights

Play the hits!



### jazz concert

Krum Jazz Band performed at the library, resulting in a magical night where the community brought their blankets, snacks, and pets to enjoy the astonishingly professional music and the warm spring evening.



### Master Gardeners

The Denton Master Gardeners held seasonally themed "how to" sessions. We loved having them and our patrons did too!



## SUMMER READING EXTRAVAGANZA

The library threw an indoor/outdoor extravaganza to celebrate the kick off of Summer Reading 2025, and it was the biggest and most successful event we've ever had!



Your stuffies had so much fun at our summer sleepover that we made a book documenting their adventures! Check out **Dragon's Library Sleepover**, available for check out in our picture book collection.

ESCAPE THE  
UPSIDE DOWN

A Stranger Things themed escape room for tweens, teens, and families. One teen told us this was the best escape room she's ever been to, which we consider the highest of compliments.

## STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER

# What We're Reading



**Liz: Dungeon Crawler Carl (Book 1)**  
Adult Fantasy/  
LitRPG

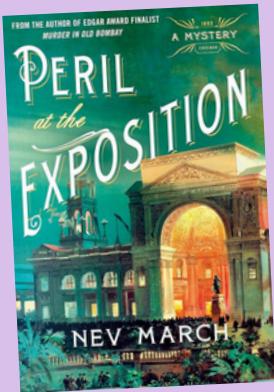
A wild, fast-paced LitRPG adventure that kept me turning pages with its nonstop action, unpredictable twists, and off-the-wall humor. I recently picked up Dungeon Crawler Carl out of curiosity. I'd heard so much about the series, and I wanted to see what all the buzz was about. Right from the start, the book throws you into the deep end. The world ends in the opening pages, the survivors are thrust into a massive, televised dungeon crawl, and the pace never slows down from there.

This book moves fast, action scene to action scene, twist to twist, and I found myself flying through chapters without realizing how much time had passed. Even with all the chaos unfolding, the writing stays surprisingly easy to follow, and the LitRPG elements feel accessible without being overwhelming. It has the same kind of momentum that kept me hooked in series like Percy Jackson or The Hunger Games, but with a much more eccentric, adult sense of humor.

Princess Donut, the talking cat companion, ended up being one of my favorite parts of the story. The dynamic between her and Carl gives the book a lighter edge, especially during the more intense moments. The world itself is wildly imaginative, and there's no shortage of surprises, half the time I couldn't guess what was coming next, which is rare for me.

This book leans into mature themes and dark humor, so it won't be for everyone. But if you enjoy fast-paced fantasy with unpredictable challenges and a video-game-inspired structure, this is an interesting entry point into the LitRPG genre. Even with its heavier moments, the story kept me curious, and I'm planning to continue with the next book to see where the series goes.

## DONNA: “



I found myself unexpectedly immersed in books about women spies during World War II this past year. Some centered on librarians ([Miss Morgan's Book Brigade](#)), others on scholars and librarians who became spies ([Book and Dagger](#)), and I also enjoyed Erik Larson's [The Splendid and the Vile](#). I ended the year with a mystery, [Peril at the Exposition](#), set during the Chicago World's Fair—an event I had read about previously in Larson's [The Devil in the White City](#). It was a year of fascinating historical reads! ”



## KATRINA: THE MAGICIAN'S NEPHEW CHILDREN'S FANTASY



Over the holidays I decided it was time to revisit [Narnia](#), my favorite series for children (and probably my preferred fantasy series full-stop), because what better time to make a time commitment than during the the busiest time of the year?

You guessed it, thus far I have only barely been able to knock out one single Narnia novel, C.S. Lewis's [The Magician's Nephew](#). When I was a young reader I knew this as book six. but lately its been upgraded to the first in the series and I must say it felt odd --and frankly, a bit wrong to enter the saga in this frontwards manner.

Other than that, I'm happy to report that [Magician's Nephew](#) is still as enchanting as I had remembered it. Lewis writes beautifully about the thin line between our drab reality and the thrill of other worlds, but the proceedings are dosed with a sense of dread and bewilderment from time to time. Uncle Andrew, for example, is a hilariously pathetic character, but his threat to abandon the children in an alternate dimension is as unsettling now as it was when I was eight years old.

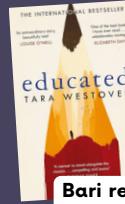
Ultimately, [Magician's Nephew](#) and most of the Narnia series resonate with readers of all ages not just because of Lewis's creative magic, but, I would argue, because he never talks down to or distances his storytelling from readers. We are always treated as friends of the writer via his warm tone and folksy, down-to-earth descriptions of the fantastic events he asks us to bear witness to. They don't make 'em like this anymore!



Margo's reading  
The Secret History  
by Donna Tartt



Brecken recommends  
Doppleganger by Naomi Klein



Bari recommends  
Educated by Tara Westover



Katie recommends Over and Under  
the Canyon by Kate Messner





# Seeking Sponsors for Summer Reading 2026



Support the Krum Public Library's Summer Reading Program! Become a sponsor and help ignite imaginations, encourage lifelong reading habits, and support community engagement.



The scope and success of summer events are directly linked to sponsorship and generosity .

This year, we're seeking sponsors to help us purchase grand prizes (and little prizes) for our readers to earn and win, such as a **Nintendo Switch 2**, a **bicycle**, gift cards for **Krum & Denton activities**, and more!



## Tier System



Sponsors will be publicly recognized based on their donation tier. See what your support unlocks:

### 3 Bronze Sponsor (\$25-\$99)

- Shared sponsor slide (with other Bronze donors) displayed above our circulation desk during SRP months
- Logo and info featured on Summer Reading Program calendars
- Bulletin board poster listing all Bronze sponsors during SRP months

### 2 Silver Sponsor (\$100-\$499)

- Individual sponsor slide on our circulation TV during SRP months
- Logo and info on SRP calendars
- Poster on bulletin board during SRP months
- Website listing as a Silver Tier sponsor (SRP season)
- Newsletter listing as a Silver Tier sponsor (SRP season)

### 1 Gold Sponsor (\$500+)

- Individual sponsor slide all year on our circulation TV
- Gold Tier listing on SRP posters
- Bulletin board poster all year round
- Website listing as a Gold Tier sponsor (year-round)
- Newsletter listing as a Gold Tier sponsor (year-round)

# Library Insider's Guide



## What is an Inter-Library Loan (ILL)?

Interlibrary Loan, often called ILL, is a service that allows libraries to borrow materials from one another. If a patron requests an item that the Krum Public Library does not own, staff can search for it through the statewide ILL system and request it from another participating library.

In Texas, Interlibrary Loan is coordinated by the **Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC)** through a platform called **Shareit**. This system connects public, academic, and special libraries across the state, giving patrons access to a much wider range of books and other materials.

Shareit is also linked with ILL networks in other states when needed, meaning requests can be filled by libraries across the country. This collaboration helps ensure that patrons can access materials even when they're not available locally.

This can mean specialized research titles, older books, unique media, and hard-to-find items.



## How does ILL work?

Interlibrary Loan is one of the most powerful services libraries offer — it connects Krum Public Library (KPL) with a statewide (and sometimes nationwide) network of libraries.

### 1. We Start Close to Home

If neither the KPL nor our consortium libraries own a requested item, that's when an ILL request becomes the next step.

### 2. Sending the Request

We search Shareit, the statewide ILL platform administered by the Texas State Library & Archives Commission (TSLAC). Once KPL staff makes their electronic request for the item, the matching physical form is filed so staff can track the item at every stage.

### 3. A Lending Library Picks It Up

When another library confirms it can lend the material, staff there pull it from their shelves, enter the due date and shipping information in Shareit, and prepare it for mailing.

Items are typically sent by the Amigos courier service, which is a courier system that many libraries use to move items between them.

### 4. Checking the Item In at KPL

When the item arrives, KPL staff verifies it according to our records.

The electronic request is marked as received, and Shareit sends all the necessary information — title, barcode, due date, and patron — to KPL's **Integrated Library System (ILS)**, the software we use to track out materials, patrons, checkouts and check ins. The item is labeled (to ensure it isn't mistakenly shelved), checked into the ILS, and the system sends the patron a notification that their request is ready for pickup.

### 5. The Patron Borrows the Item

The item is checked out just like any other library material. The only two differences: the item is unable to be renewed, and the due date is set by the lending library, not KPL.

### 6. Returning the Item

When the patron brings the item back, staff check it in and the ILS alerts us that it's an ILL. The physical request form is updated, staff completes the return steps in Shareit and ships the item back.

Once complete, the physical request form is filed with other finished ILLs for the fiscal year and later archived.

### Does Krum Public Library provide Inter-Library Loans to other libraries?

Yes! Krum Public Library (KPL) not only borrows materials through Interlibrary Loan (ILL), we also lend materials to libraries across Texas.



## Why is it important to patrons and libraries?

This service greatly broadens the educational, recreational, and enrichment opportunities available to readers of all ages.

ILLs also strengthen collaboration among libraries. By sharing resources, libraries of all sizes—large systems and small rural branches alike—can offer a wider, more diverse collection than their budgets or shelf space alone would allow.

At the end of each fiscal year, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) reviews Shareit reports showing how many items each library has borrowed and lent. Libraries that share their collections with others receive reimbursement, helping support the statewide system and encouraging continued cooperation.

Interlibrary Loan is more than just borrowing a book from somewhere else; it is a statewide partnership that connects readers, strengthens local libraries, and ensures that information remains accessible to everyone.

— Liz Schrier

# How to Help



**JOIN TODAY!**

- NO FEES
- NO MONTHLY MEETINGS
- CREATIVE ENVIRONMENT
- BE A PART OF YOUR COMMUNITY

**To volunteer, sign up at the library in person or go to:**

**[timecounts.app/krum-public-library](https://timecounts.app/krum-public-library)**

Krum Friends of the Library are currently seeking vendors for our biggest fundraiser, the Spring Festival (April 25). For more information or to book your booth, contact Stacey at **KrumFriends@gmail.com**

## Share the Love!



If you love what the library brings to Krum, contact your city representatives and let them know how much the library means to you. Every email, call, and comment helps ensure we can continue offering great programs, resources, and services for our community.

**contact city of Krum here:  
[info@cityofkrum.com](mailto:info@cityofkrum.com)**