

Link+ Berkeley Public Library

Link+ is a cooperative project among dozens of academic and public libraries. It provides a single, searchable catalog for books and government publications. These items can be borrowed fee-free and delivered quickly, from participating libraries in California and Nevada.

Link+ allows library users to initiate requests for, and delivery of, print materials. Berkeley Public Library (BPL) patrons can borrow books and government documents, which are not owned by BPL, from any participating Link+ library which owns the wanted material.

Link+ requests are filled and delivered for patron pick up at Berkeley Public Library (BPL) in less than a week. The service is free of any fees, unlike traditional interlibrary loan requests. More than 64 million items become available to local borrowers through Link+.

Why would I use Link+?

The Link+ service generally provides faster delivery than the traditional interlibrary loan service because you place the request from the library's online catalog, and there are no paper forms to complete. Advantages to using Link+ include being able to place the request remotely from your home or office, then monitoring the progress of your request by viewing your own circulation record, at your convenience.

Which libraries participate in Link+?

Members of Link+ include academic and public libraries. Among them are:

Alameda County Library
Cal State Universities (all)
The Claremont Colleges
Mountain View Public Library
Occidental College
Pleasanton Public Library
St. Mary's College

San Jose Public Library
Santa Clara City Library
Santa Clara University
University of California, Riverside
University of Nevada, Reno
University of San Francisco
Whittier College

Oakland Public Library and San Francisco Public Library are scheduled to join during the coming year.

How do I use Link+?

Link+ is available in two ways:

(a) Click on the BPL link on the library's web site and then on the Link+ button located on the lower left hand side of the screen. Follow the instructions on the screen.

(b) After searching in Berkeley Public Library's catalog for a book or government publication and finding it unavailable here, click on the "Repeat Search in Link+" button at the top of the screen. The search will be re-executed automatically for you.

In either case, when you find an item you wish to borrow, click on the "Request this item" button. A dialog box will appear and you will need to respond to the following:

- "With which institution are you affiliated?" Click on the down arrow until Berkeley Public Library is selected, and click on the button, "Submit above information."
- If the item is already in our collection you will receive the message, "You cannot use Link+ to request items that are available at your institution."
- If the item is not owned by Berkeley Public Library, you will be asked to enter your name and library card number. You will also be asked to select a pickup location: Central, Claremont, North, South or West.

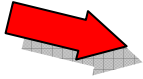
If you have any question about searching Link+, please ask for assistance at the Reference Desk. You may also call the Central Information Desk at (510) 981-6100 or inquire at any Berkeley Public Library branch location.

How long does a Link+ item take to arrive at the library after I request it?

The time between making a request for an available item and receiving it at Berkley Public Library is approximately 2-4 days. It will then be held for you for up to 10 days.

For how long may I borrow a Link+ item?

Materials are loaned from library to library for a period of 21 days with 1 renewal possible for 14 days only if there are no holds. There is no grace period for late returns.



How much will I be charged for late or lost materials?

The overdue fine for items returned after the due date is **\$1.00** per day per item. Replacement cost for lost or damaged Link+ items is **\$115.00**.

How many Link+ requests and loans can I have at any one time?

You may have up to 15 transactions at any one time. A Link+ transaction is either a request or a checkout. The total of these two categories can't exceed 15 at a time.

How can I monitor the status of a Link+ request I've made?

Go to Berkeley Public Library's online catalog's menu and click on the "View Your Own Record" link located on the left hand side of the screen. Link+ requests are listed under holds. When the status is listed as "Link+ Recv'd" the item is ready for you to borrow.

Can I pick up Link+ requests at any Berkeley Public Library location I designate?

Yes, you will designate a specific pick up location when you place your request. Link+ pick ups cannot be placed on the open Hold shelves, however, so you must collect your Link+ items at the circulation desk at the location where you asked to have the item sent.

What if the item I want isn't owned by any Link+ library?

If Link+ cannot fill a request, you may, as a BPL card holder, still submit a traditional request through the library's Interlibrary Loan Service. The cost is \$2 per request. Forms are available at the Circulation Desk.

Will Berkeley Public Library still consider suggestions for purchase of titles not already owned?

Yes! However, now you can check the Link+ libraries' holdings and receive the book you'd like in less than a week. Suggested purchases can take as long as six months to be received, and not all suggested titles are still available for BPL to acquire.

Where can I get more information on Link+?

You can ask library staff for more detailed information. And you can visit the Link+ web site <http://csul.iii.com/screens/whatslink.html> if you want detailed data.

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