

HOW I GOT 30+ FREE LIBRARY CARDS IN TEXAS

Every library card I personally have + how I qualified 

aka the list everyone keeps asking me for lol

Quick note: This is based on how I personally qualified for these cards. Library rules change, so PLEASE double check the library's website or call before making a drive!

The easiest way to start: check libraries around you and ask whether they offer free cards to Texas residents, neighboring cities/counties, or TexShare cardholders. Some of my cards also include digital borrowing, but not all of them do.

I mostly use my cards for ebooks/audiobooks, so I only listed the digital reading services I personally use. Some libraries also offer extras like Kanopy, databases, streaming, or other apps.

1. FREE FOR TEXAS RESIDENTS

These are the cards I got without needing to live in that specific city. Most of these required me to show up in person with a Texas ID/proof of address.

LIBRARY	DIGITAL	HOW I QUALIFIED	GOOD TO KNOW
Allen Public Library	cloudLibrary	Texas resident	Free card
Lewisville Public Library	cloudLibrary	Texas resident	Free card
Anna Public Library	cloudLibrary	Texas resident	Free card
Grand Prairie Public Library	Libby	Texas resident	Free card
Cedar Hill Public Library	Libby + hoopla	Texas resident	Free card
Rowlett Public Library	cloudLibrary	Texas resident	Free card
Smith Public Library (Wylie)	Libby - Northeast Texas Digital Consortium	Texas resident	Free card
Sachse Public Library	Libby - Northeast Texas Digital Consortium + hoopla	Texas resident	Can apply online for digital access or in person for full access
Hurst Public Library	Libby - North Texas Libraries on the Go	Texas resident	Free card
Little Elm Public Library	cloudLibrary	Texas resident	Digital access included
Celina Public Library	Libby - Northeast Texas Digital Consortium	Texas resident	Free card
The Colony Public Library	Libby - North Texas Libraries on the Go	Texas resident	Free card
North Richland Hills Library	Libby - North Texas Libraries on the Go	Texas resident	Free card

LIBRARY	DIGITAL	HOW I QUALIFIED	GOOD TO KNOW
Bedford Public Library	Libby - North Texas Libraries on the Go	Texas resident	Digital access included
Sherman Public Library	Libby - Northeast Texas Digital Consortium	Texas resident	Free card
Krum Public Library	Libby - North Texas Independent Digital Consortium	Texas resident	Free card

2. FREE WITH A TEXSHARE CARD

These are libraries where I used my TexShare card to qualify. TexShare does NOT automatically mean digital access. Each library decides what privileges it gives TexShare borrowers.

LIBRARY	DIGITAL	HOW I QUALIFIED	GOOD TO KNOW
Roanoke Public Library	Libby - North Texas Independent Digital Consortium	TexShare	TexShare card
Eules Public Library	cloudLibrary + hoopla	TexShare	TexShare waives the nonresident fee
Southlake Public Library	Libby - North Texas Libraries on the Go + cloudLibrary	TexShare	Digital access included with my card
Flower Mound Public Library	No digital access	TexShare	Physical borrowing for me
Colleyville Public Library	No digital access	TexShare	Physical borrowing for me

3. COLLIN COUNTY + RECIPROCAL CARDS

Living in Collin County / McKinney opened up another group for me.

LIBRARY	DIGITAL	HOW I QUALIFIED	GOOD TO KNOW
McKinney Public Library	cloudLibrary	Collin County	I use cloudLibrary with this card
Melissa Public Library	cloudLibrary	Collin County	Free for qualifying residents
Plano Public Library	Libby - Plano Public Library collection	Collin County	Digital access included
Richardson Public Library	Libby - Richardson Public Library collection	Collin County	Digital access included
Frisco Public Library	No digital access	Reciprocal city	Free if you live in Allen, McKinney, Plano, or The Colony under the eligibility I used
Garland Libraries	Libby - Garland Public Libraries collection	Reciprocal / nearby city	They call it surrounding-city eligibility. McKinney counts for me lol

4. DIGITAL CARDS I APPLIED FOR ONLINE

START HERE if your main goal is digital borrowing and you do not want to drive all over Texas. These are the online applications on my personal list.

LIBRARY	DIGITAL	HOW I QUALIFIED	GOOD TO KNOW
Houston Public Library	Libby - Houston Public Library collection	Online application	Online digital card
Longview Public Library	Libby - Northeast Texas Digital Consortium + cloudLibrary	Online application	Online-access option; physical borrowing may require an in-person upgrade
Pasadena Public Library	Digital access	Online application	Double check current online-card requirements
Montgomery County Memorial Library System	Digital access	Online application	Double check current online-card requirements

A FEW THINGS I WISH I KNEW FIRST

- A free physical library card does not always mean you get that library's Libby/cloudLibrary/hoopla access.
- TexShare is amazing for physical borrowing, but digital privileges vary by library.
- If two libraries are in the same Libby consortium, the cards may connect you to the same shared digital collection.
- Bring your photo ID + proof of your current Texas address when you go in person. I usually call or check the website first.
- I would never drive a long distance solely based on this list without confirming the current policy first. Things change!

Last updated: August 2026 • This is my personal card list, not an official statewide directory.