

FAQS ABOUT THE GENOA PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR NON-RESIDENTS

WHY DID I GET “FREE” LIBRARY SERVICE WHERE I USED TO LIVE BUT HAVE TO PAY FOR IT NOW?

No library card is offered free of charge. In Illinois, the amount a taxpayer pays for library service is shown clearly on the property tax bill. Many people who move to Illinois from other states had county library systems at their previous residences. With county service, they are often unaware that some of the taxes they paid to the county were used to support their library. Those persons living outside of the Genoa city limits do not pay a tax to the Genoa Public Library and will not have this tax listed on their tax bill.

SHOULDN'T STUDENTS GET FREE LIBRARY CARDS?

Illinois Library District law requires the Library Board to charge a fee for library service for people who live outside the city limits that is at least equal to the tax paid by taxpayers within the city limits.

WHAT KIND OF FEE DO I HAVE TO PAY TO USE THE LIBRARY?

People who live outside of the Genoa city limits, and therefore do not pay for library service through their taxes, may pay an annual fee for library service. Like the resident taxpayer's tax, it is based on the assessed valuation of the applicant's residence. State law says the Library Board may extend local library service to non-residents and, if it does so, it must charge a fee at least equal to that paid by its residents. The Genoa Library Board uses the tax bill method to determine non-resident fees because this method is fair to taxpayers and gives non-residents a realistic idea of what it costs to support a library.

WHY CAN'T THE ANNUAL NON-RESIDENT FEE BE REPLACED BY AN UP-FRONT, ONE-TIME FEE?

Like the property taxes that support the Library, the fee is annual because the cost of maintaining a library is ongoing. State law requires a non-resident fee at least equal to the taxes paid by its residents on a yearly basis.

WILL THE RATES EVER CHANGE?

The Library Board is obligated by state law to review the non-resident card annually. The fee and fee structure can be changed at that time. The levy rate varies from year-to-year and is determined in May by the DeKalb County Tax Office.

QUESTIONS?

Please call Library Director Jen Barton at 815-784-2627 if you have any questions.