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Columbia County Traveling Library Readers,

Starting today, we are implementing an auto-renewal feature in our automated library system. **Our loan period will be changing from four weeks to two weeks, with one auto-renewal for an additional two weeks. There is a two-week grace period. Adult books and audiobooks with a 'New' sticker and holiday/seasonal books will be loaned for two weeks only with no renewals because of high demand, with a one-week grace period.**

A nice outcome of this is that you never have to worry about renewing Traveling Library (or Orangeville Public Library) books again! The system will do it for you and you will receive an email notification. If the book you have checked out has been requested by another person, you will receive an overdue notice when the book comes due instead of an auto-renewal notice. In this case, please try to finish the book and get it back within one week for the next reader. If necessary, you can return it and ask to be put on the list to get it again in the future. This happens less frequently now that we can borrow books from our partners at Orangeville Public Library to fill reserve requests.

For most people, this will not be a big change, but I wanted to be sure you knew about it and understand why we are making this change in our policies. When I started as the director here in 2016, the loan period was four weeks with one four-week renewal. This made sense at the time. The reason for this longer loan period was that we only visited bookmobile stops every two weeks and wanted to avoid the penalty of an overdue fine for when people had to miss a stop and could not return their books. However, we no longer charge overdue fines, and we now have longer service hours and many different opportunities for people to return books closer to home. (Note that if you borrow any Orangeville Public Library books through us, there will be an overdue fine after a five-day grace period, so please pay more attention to those books and let us know if you need to negotiate a longer loan.)

As of now, if you are a bookmobile user and miss a stop, your books will automatically be renewed for two more weeks. If you have to miss a second stop, feel free to keep the books a while longer even if they are overdue. Our 'grace period' before we start pestering you to return overdue books is now two weeks for regular books and one week for new and holiday/seasonal books. (If you really dislike the idea of having an overdue book, email service@cctlibrary.org or call 570-387-8782 and we will renew your books again, but we are really fine with considering overdue books to be in a grace period for two weeks.) If you will be traveling or working on a project, or have any good reason to keep books longer, please just let us know and we will be happy to set a special due date for you!

One thing that will be a bit of a challenge for some is not having a renewal option for new books. Over the past year, we have been busier and have added many new library users. It has sometimes been difficult to meet the demand for new books even if we have added second copies. Because of these 'growing pains,' we now have the same practice as most other libraries for new books. We also now have a limit of 10 new or holiday/seasonal books at a time.

Most answers to questions about borrowing policies and options for returning books can be found on our website – just go to www.travelinglibrary.org and click 'About' then 'Borrow Books.'

Thank you for your understanding. We appreciate our community of readers and hope these changes improve our ability to get more books to more readers more quickly! Please feel free to reach out to me or library staff with any questions or concerns.