



Initially, the LibraryOne Card was part of a larger, 3-part (Library cards in all student hands, Pop-Up Library, & early literacy parent information nights) grant that we were unsuccessful in securing from the state of Michigan. However, it is still something that BDL is eager to offer to Branch County students.

The LibraryOne Card initiative is designed to enrich and support Branch County literacy, complementing the resources available through school libraries with access to BDL's physical and electronic resources. The goal of the LibraryOne Card is to create a barrier-free process for local students to get a library card, check out books, and foster a life-long love of reading.

Benefits of having a LibraryOne Card are numerous and include:

- Access to one print item and all online materials (including academic databases for research purposes)
- Access to BDL language services with Mango Languages
- Downloadable eBooks, audiobooks, music, movies and more with hoopla!
- Access to computers with internet at any BDL location
- Students participating with a LibraryOne Card will be not be charged any fees, such as lost or damaged
- Reduces barriers associated with registering for a library card, visiting BDL and accessing its collections

Potential Expense: If a minor lost an item and didn't pay for it, BDL would be responsible for this item. So there is a potential cost to this program. To get an idea of what that might be, let's look at lost items from the past 6 years. 759 items out of 3086 items lost in the last 6 years were print materials lost by the "under 18" card-holders. That's 25% of all items lost. The cash value of that is about \$9,500, or \$1,600 per year on average if not a single person paid. That's 1.7% of the book budget.

We feel a loss like this would be acceptable in light of the potential greater good we could achieve, and we would work it into our book budgets. Any minors with lost items would need to pay for them for privileges to be restored.

The Pubic Services Committee was in favor of this aspect of our grant proposal, and we hope the full Board is too. If the BDL Board was willing to amend our library card policy to allow for this new drive, we would implement it starting in January 2020.

The relevant part of our current library card policy reads (https://www.branchdistrictlibrary.org/library_card_policy):

Minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian unless they are:

- **Married, in which case, they must present their marriage license or certificate; or**
- **Emancipated, in which case, they must present their emancipation papers**

We would recommend changing the word “Minors”: **“To get a regular library card, minors...”**, then adding the sentence: **“LibraryOne Cards are available for free to any minor student in our service area. The LibraryOne Card gives full access to digital services and 1 print item checkout at a time.”**

While we’re making changes, we’d also recommend tweaking the sentence:

Available to teachers working at schools within the service area

to become:

Available to educators at schools and homeschools with the service area

in recognition of the increasing incidence of homeschool teachers in the area.