

**From:** [Jim Scheppke](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Cc:** [citycouncil](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Agenda Item 3.2a  
**Date:** Saturday, July 20, 2024 1:03:58 PM

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Dear Mayor and City Council:

A “fee study” for the Salem Public Library is long overdue concerning fees for library users outside of the city limits. The fact that residents of Keizer and Turner and unincorporated East Salem can have nearly full use of the library without payment of a fee means that Salem residents are unfairly subsidizing their library use. Because our library is so terribly understaffed and under resourced makes the situation that much worse.

Yes, these out-of-city residents pay \$0.08 per \$1,000 in taxes to the Chemeketa Cooperative Regional Library and they should get something for that. Salem residents pay that too in addition to our city taxes that support the library. What out-of-city residents get now is the ability to check out 10 books at a time per card and 25 books for children. *I would submit that the 10 book limit is not really a limit for the vast majority of library users.* And the limit on checkouts of ebooks and audiobooks is the same as for Salem residents.

The situation used to be different ...

- 2001: out-of-city residents can check out one book at a time or pay a \$40 annual card fee.
- 2002: out-of-city residents can check out one book at a time or pay a \$60 annual card fee.
- 2016: out-of-city residents can check out ten books at a time or pay a \$60 annual card fee.

So the fee structure and limits changed in 2016 and has been the same since. The annual card fee is still only \$60, as it has been since 2002. The limit of 25 books for children has been in place even before 2001, I believe, and has not changed.

I strongly recommend the City Council consider returning to the pre-2016 practice of limiting out-of-city resident checkouts to one book at a time and to index the \$60 annual card fee to inflation, retroactive to 2002. If this were done the card fee today would be \$104. I am okay with continuing the status quo for children.

Thank you for your consideration,

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