



Oakland Public Library

Fines and Lost Books Forgiveness

Saturday, November 24 to Friday, December 14, 2007

The Care and Feeding of Library Materials or Why It's Important to Take Care of Library Materials and Return Them on Time

The Oakland Public Library would like to remind all of our users that the materials we loan to you are a shared public resource. This means that all of our books, CDs, DVDs, magazines, and tools are destined to reach a wide number of your neighbors who count on the library for information and recreation. When you are careless with library materials—whether losing, defacing, or keeping them overdue—you are depriving others in your community of a valuable resource.

Because we care about keeping you as library users and having as many of our resources available to the largest number of people, we are making it easy for you to return library materials. Some things you might not know about our return policies:

- * You can renew library books over the phone 24 hours a day. Call (510) 238-3311.
- * You can renew library books over the Web, as well as keep track of due dates to prevent future fines. Go to www.oaklandlibrary.org and click "My Account."
- * You can return your library materials to *any* Oakland Public Library, not just the one where you borrowed the items.

- * You can leave your library materials in a conveniently located book drop.
- * It is always better to return your overdue materials, even if you can't pay the fines. You accrue less debt with the library and are not referred to a collection agency.

We know how easy it is to lose track of library materials in your children's bedrooms or in that stack of books on your own bedside table. Here are tips:

- * Keep library materials separate from personally owned books.
- * Keep due date receipts together in one place so they don't get lost.
- * Mark the due date for library materials on your personal calendar.
- * Periodically ask your children if they have library materials checked out; sometimes children visit the library with their classes, check out materials, and forget about them.
- * Don't lend your library materials to anyone else. If your friend forgets to return them, you are held responsible.

Let us help you **get a fresh start!**