A couple of years ago, library staff were inundated with requests from patrons wielding new technologies. From everywhere, our patrons came, ready to experience what the eBook and audio eBook world of digital content had to offer. In 2011 and 2012 tablets and eReaders were quite new, huge, and staff were kept on their toes trying to answer our patrons’ questions about these devices. It was a fun, experimental, somewhat crazy time. One librarian described it best as the Wild Wild West of eBooks, and that’s truly what it was. OverDrive’s interface was somewhat less user-friendly than the fancy, colorful one we are now used to, many tablets were not compatible with our digital materials at all, and we never knew what kind of tablet we would see come in, usually accompanied by a puzzled patron. We nevertheless attempted to help them all.

Fast forward a couple of years and tablets are, of course, still very popular purchases and great gift ideas. But something interesting has happened in the last few years – smart devices, as revolutionary as they were, have in many ways, become more and more similar, as if they were all moving toward the idea of a ‘perfect’ tablet. They started becoming more uniform both in appearance and operation. Now we are at the point where we see apps that look almost exactly the same across multiple platforms such as iOS and Android. Over the last few years, we have been seeing a shift in consumer electronics, which can be summarized with the following trends.

- Portable and wearable devices
- Always smart, always on, always connected
- Virtual reality is back
- Maker and hacker movements are growing

Click here to continue reading.

Support us on Colorado Gives Day
Tuesday, December 9, online at ColoradoGives.org
Portable and Wearable
So we know that the trend of smaller electronics (with the exception of smartphones) has been ongoing, and this could, at least partly, be related to the explosion of the ‘wearable tech’ movement. Like with the tablets that came out a couple of years ago, we are seeing an abundance of smart watches appearing on the market and the interesting thing is that there seems to be a huge range of designs and means of operation. It will be interesting to see if like tablets, these wearable tech devices are moving toward a more uniform interface on a smart watch. And while Google glass didn’t quite pan out with its being labeled as too ‘clunky’ (obvious to others) and ‘not useful enough’ by consumers, we should see this prototype technology for what it is, which is another move towards a smoother human-computer interaction. If you’re envisioning computer chips implanted in our brains, you might just be onto something.

Always Smarter, Always On, and Always Connected
Wanting more than just connected cars that have built in Wi-Fi and tablets, today’s consumers want their houses and everything in them to be smart, adjustable, and able to be managed from a remote location. We want to be able to work from a beach in Costa Rica, Tweet from airplanes, and for Google to follow our every voice command. We want lightning-fast 4G network coverage everywhere. We want to make our doctor’s appointments online and check out ebooks and movies from the comfort of our homes, maybe even (or maybe especially) from our beds. We want self-driven, electric cars that charge in five minutes. Luckily, Nanyang Technology University students have recently come up with a bit of solution for that last one—a lithium ion battery that can apparently charge to 70% in an astounding 2 minutes and which has a life expectancy of 20 years.

Another interesting trend is toward metrics. It’s no longer fine to just go for a walk, now we’re obsessed with mapping our rides, walks, and runs so that we can tell how much further, higher, and faster we can perform. We are obsessed with tracking every calorie we eat through apps like MyFitnessPal and LoseIT. Good news for MyFitnessPal users and others, coming soon, new devices that will scan and analyze our foods for caloric and nutritional content. For now, the trend of measuring stuff we do looks likely to continue and the process will probably only become more seamlessly integrated.

It certainly seems like the average consumer (if the market is any indication) seems to also want more than just smart devices like phones and tablets. We want (and can now buy) smart fridges, microwaves, dishwashers, coffee makers, and TVs. We want to hack all of our devices, get inside them and connect with them in a way that makes our lives run more smoothly and efficiently and that gives us control over the automation of an amazing array of gadgets. We want the sprinkler manager that monitors the weather reports on the web and automatically adjusts watering levels and frequency. Or how about the BluFit – a Bluetooth water bottle that ‘tattles’ on you to your phone if you are not drinking enough and then will send you notifications to remind you to drink more? Too far? How about a wireless crockpot from Belkin? You can check in from work to see how your slow cooker is getting on with dinner. It can be hard to distinguish the gimmicky from the truly useful. Probably one of the more underrated newer devices out there is Google’s Chromecast dongle. Though similar in function to the Roku box, for instance, it is much smaller than the Roku and yet it seems to be able to do quite a bit for its size, and then some, like wirelessly mirroring your laptop screen to your TV.
One of the more interesting areas of application for our smart devices has arguably been the personal health field and the amazing slew of medical apps and peripheral devices that integrate with a smartphone. From the breathalyzer attachment that plugs into your phone and tells you when you will be sober enough to drive (breathometer.com, or BACtrack mobile breathalyzer), to an ophthalmoscope or a dermatoscope, both of which you can also attach to your phone. You can also now buy a medical ‘tricorder’ – type device (yep, right out of Star Trek) that takes your vitals and can also measure things like O2 saturation. Also… and this is not for the squeamish, but coming soon – a peripheral that will attach to your phone and will be able to perform a basic urinalysis, measuring things like glucose, protein, leukocytes, and of course, pregnancy. Along the same lines, one of the more interesting peripherals out there is the Lapka personal environment monitor. Stackable sensors attach to your smartphone and measure surrounding levels of radiation, electromagnetic fields, humidity, and the nitrate levels in your produce (indicating use of synthetic fertilizers). With the recent advances being made in lab-on-a-chip technology, the day when we will be able to do in-home, super-sensitive medical testing such as blood tests seems very close.

Virtual Reality is Back
Two words: Oculus Rift. After this crowd-funded startup released their first prototype VR headset, they were immediately bought by Facebook. Whether development on this virtual reality headset pans out or not (and the indications look good), this trend underscores the phenomenon of people continuing to look for ways to better immerse themselves in the digital world, a world that is completely augmentable and artificial, yet one that seems as real as possible.

The Maker and Hackerspace Movements
Another interesting thing to come out of the last few years in the tech world is the hacker/maker movement, which continues to gain steam and grassroots support in our communities. While both of these movements are about more than electronics, the mass market availability of 3D printers, the surge in DIY robotics and the availability of less-expensive electronic kits (such as the Arduino and Raspberry Pi) has allowed these movements to spread and has enabled pretty much anyone off the street to familiarize themselves with electronics, both in terms of hardware and software programming. This has, in turn, led to an explosion of innovation visible in the increase of funding requests on crowd-funding sites such as Indiegogo and Kickstarter. These projects are often initiated by people who are not necessarily expected to come up with amazing solutions to real world problems, such as 15-year-old Canadian Ann Makosinski, who invented a hand-powered flashlight.

Tablets and eReaders 2014
For those of you interested in more ‘traditional’ gadgets such as ereaders or tablets, here is a very short list of the major devices on the market that are compatible with our digital materials (it’s short, because the good news is, most newer devices are compatible).

- Amazon Kindle Voyage – very recently released and unique in being a dedicated e-ink ereader that will make it practically impossible (because of its single function) to get distracted from reading. Library users who wish to use this product with free library books will have to check them out on a computer and have them delivered to their Kindle via wireless or will have to transfer them via USB cord. This method of delivery applies to all of the Kindle e-ink (non-smart) devices. Digital magazines, movies, music and audiobooks from the library are not compatible with this device.
Almost all newer smart tablets and phones are compatible with all of our eBook, audiobook, eMagazine, movie, and music vendors, including OverDrive, OneClick Digital, Zinio, Freegal, and IndieFlix. Some of the more popular devices are listed below. For the complete list on what’s compatible, check vendor websites.

- Android tablets such as Samsung, Google Nexus, NVIDIA, ASUS, and others
- Apple iPhones, Apple iPad Air 2, iPad Mini, and other Apple products
- Amazon’s new Kindle Fire HDX
- Samsung’s Galaxy Tab 4 NOOK
- Tablets running Windows 8 made by Acer, Toshiba, Lenovo and others

It’s a very exciting time for tech lovers and the general public alike. I’m sure you’ll join library staff in welcoming the ways that technology can improve our lives. Maybe we’ll even get those flying cars.

References:
Radu Tyrsina, iPhone Medical Accessories: 10 of the Best You Can Buy. Technically Personal. 2013

If you are feeling adventurous and want to try some of the fancy new peripherals mentioned in this article, below is a list of the manufacturer websites:
- ‘Tricorder’ health scanner: https://www.scanadu.com/
- Dermatoscope: http://www.handyscope.net/en/device.html
- Personal environmental monitor: https://mylapka.com/pem
- Skydrop sprinkler: skydrop.com
- BluFit: https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/blufit-bottle
- Belkin slow cooker: http://www.belkin.com/us/p/P-F7C045/
SPECIAL EVENTS

CHILDREN & TEENS | HANDMADE HOLIDAY
Erie Community Library
• December 2, 4:00-5:30 pm (Grades 3-5) Registration required.
• December 3, 4:00-5:30 pm (Grades 6-12) Registration required.

Get into the holiday spirit and craft some handmade gifts for your friends and family. We’ll provide all the supplies so you can deliver the cheer!

ADULTS | CRAIGSLIST 101
December 2, 6:30-8:30 pm
Farr Regional Library

You will learn the how to navigate Craigslist like a pro. We’ll start with a tour of the various areas of Craigslist and will teach you to search safely and strategically. You will also learn how to post your own ad and how to reply to another poster’s ad. Participants should have good mouse and keyboard skills, basic experience in navigating the web, and a current email address. Registration required.

ALL AGES | ECHOES TO BUGLES: IF SQUIRRELS COULD CUSS
• December 3, 12:00-1:00 pm Erie Community Library
• December 11, 12:00-1:00 pm Farr Regional Library

To get from where it sleeps to where it eats, a Bobcat has to move; so does the Mountain Cottontail, its prey. But movement attracts attention. A Bobcat seen is a Bobcat avoided; a Cottontail seen is a Cottontail caught. For both Bobcat and Cottontail, the interaction of predator and prey is a chess match of moving and not moving.

ADULTS | EREADER FAIR
December 3, 6:00-8:00 pm
Centennial Park Library

Don’t succumb to cabin fever this winter, even if you get snowed in! HPLD has a huge range of eBooks, Audio-eBooks, full-color eMagazines, downloadable music and even streaming movies, all for free. Best of all, you can get our digital content from any location that has an internet connection. At this event, we will give you a quick tour of our free digital resources, and then some hands-on help downloading the stuff. Bring a tablet, phone or laptop with you so we can jump right in. Participants need to have a valid email address and password, and a current HPLD library card.
SPECIAL EVENTS

ADULTS | IPAD BASICS
December 4, 2:00-4:00 pm
Lincoln Park Library

Learn the basics of navigating an iPad. Menus, buttons and settings will be explained in a relaxed and friendly environment. We will also talk about apps and how to manage them. Bring your own iPad or iPhone – or use one of the library’s iPads. Registration required.

FAMILIES | SANTA SATURDAY
December 6, 11:00 am-1:00 pm
Carbon Valley Regional Library

Join us for this long-standing tradition! A visit with Santa and Christmas crafts and activities will help get your holiday season started off right. Numbered tickets will be handed out at the door and cameras are welcome.

FAMILIES | HO-HO-HOLIDAY FUN
December 6, 2:00-4:00 pm
Lincoln Park Library

The weather outside may be frightful, but inside we’ll be enjoying some holiday fun! Join us as we celebrate the winter season with a variety of entertainments and crafts, suitable for all ages. Make a nifty gift or something special for yourself during this family-friendly program.

FAMILIES | HOLIDAY HOOPLA WITH PLAY-GROUND THEATRE
- December 7, 1:00-2:00 pm
  Erie Community Library
- December 7, 3:30-4:30 pm
  Carbon Valley Regional Library

Join Mia Sole & Jeff Haycock of Play-Ground Theatre as they perform songs of the season and a whimsical winter’s tale.

HOUR OF CODE

The Hour of Code is a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify code and show that anybody can learn the basics. Celebrate Computer Science Education Week with us at one of the following events:

- December 8, 3:00-6:00 pm (Ages 8+)
  Farr Regional Library
  Come join us for Hour of Code activities as we learn programming.

- December 8, 3:30-5:00 pm (Teens)
  Carbon Valley Regional Library

- December 9, 4:00-5:00 pm (Teens)
  Erie Community Library
  Registration required.

Get to coding! We’ll have iPads and coding games to help release your inner hacker.

- December 10, 3:00-4:00 pm (Grades 6-8)
  Lincoln Park Library
  Try your hand at games themed with Angry Birds, Space Zombies, Lovable Robtos and more. Try it out first on our mondopad, then feel free to hop on one of our computers and complete your own hour of code.

- December 11, 4:00-6:00 pm (Grades 2-5)
  Centennial Park Library
  Want to be a doctor, policitican, lawyer, musician? Did you kow that computer science can help you in any career path? Drop in for Hour of Code and write your first computer program.

CO

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SPECIAL EVENTS

TEENS | CANVAS AND COCOA
- December 10, 4:00-6:00 pm
  Centennial Park Library
  Registration required.
- December 11, 4:00-6:00 pm
  Carbon Valley Regional Library
  Registration required.

Join us for a cozy painting session while we sip on hot cocoa. Artist Tami Showers will demonstrate how to paint a winter themed masterpiece. Each teen will take home their 8”x10” canvas creation. All materials will be provided. Grades 6-12.

ADULTS | KIDNEY SMART EDUCATION
- December 13, 10:30 am-noon
  Lincoln Park Library

Learn from expert educators about chronic kidney disease and its causes, diet and nutrition, benefits of employment and managing insurance, and treatment choices that may be available to you. Empower yourself with no-cost kidney disease education.

This program is a community partnership. Sponsorship or co-sponsorship of this event does not constitute the Library’s endorsement of the content or views expressed during this program.

ADULTS | BOOK SWAP
December 13, 1:00-4:00 pm
Carbon Valley Regional Library

It’s the season for sharing! Please join us at our Book Swap to find some fresh reading ideas. Enjoy a hot beverage by the fireplace while you chat with fellow readers and explore new titles and resources that can help you discover great new reads. Bring up to five gently used books and take home new-to-you reading material. There is always a new book around the corner to capture your interest!

TEENS | STUDY BREAK PARTY
December 17, 4:00-7:00 pm
Lincoln Park Library

Take a break from studying for finals! Come decorate cookies and watch Frozen to celebrate the coming of winter vacation.

CHILDREN | SANTA AND MRS. CLAUS VISIT
December 18, 9:30-10:30 am
Centennial Park Library

Come to our special storytime for an hour long event full of great stories, fun songs, candy canes, a craft, and a visit from our special guests!

CHILDREN & TEENS | ELF AND ELVES
December 22, 2:00-4:00 pm
Erie Community Library

Get out of the house during Winter Break and join us while we watch Elf, then make elf buddies of your own to take home. There will be free popcorn, and feel free to bring your own water bottle or other snacks. This film is rated “PG;” Grades K-8.

Registration required.
CHILDREN | IMAGINATION CREATION STATION
December 29, 1:00-3:00 pm
Carbon Valley Regional Library

Curious? Drop in on your “no school” day and find out what’s happening! (Grades K-5)

CHILDREN | PLAY-GROUND THEATRE’S WILD WEST TALE
December 30, 10:30-11:30 am
Farr Regional Library

Saddle up for one hour of wild western tales, music, and hilarious adventures that all ages adore!

CHILDREN | RING OUT THE YEAR
- December 31, 10:30-11:00 am
  Centennial Park Library
  Registration required.

- December 31, 11:30 am-12:00 pm
  Centennial Park Library
  Registration required.

Sing, dance and have fun at this highly interactive, family musical event celebrating the New Year. Please register children only; adults are expected to attend with children.

NEW AT CARBON VALLEY REGIONAL & LINCOLN PARK LIBRARIES

CLASES DE GED GRATIS EN SU BIBLIOTECA

- Mondays, 9 am-2 pm
  Carbon Valley Regional Library
  Questions: Call Brett at 720-685-5114

- Wednesdays, 9:30 am-noon
  Fridays, 2:00-4:30 pm
  Lincoln Park Library
  Questions: Call David at 970-506-8549

Click here to view all programs offered by HPLD.
## LIBRARIES

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<th>Address</th>
<th>City, State, Zip</th>
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<tr>
<td>Administration &amp; Support Services</td>
<td>2650 West 29th Street, Greeley, CO 80631</td>
<td>Greeley, CO 80631</td>
<td>1-888-861-READ(7323)</td>
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<td>Carbon Valley Regional Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eaton Public Library</td>
<td>132 Maple Avenue, Eaton, CO 80615</td>
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<td>(970) 454-2189</td>
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<td>Erie Community Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fort Lupton Public &amp; School Library</td>
<td>425 S. Denver Ave., Fort Lupton, CO 80621</td>
<td>Fort Lupton, CO 80621</td>
<td>(303) 857-7180</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glenn A. Jones, M.D. Memorial Library</td>
<td>400 S. Parish Avenue, Johnstown, CO 80534</td>
<td>Johnstown, CO 80534</td>
<td>(970) 587-2459</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hudson Public Library</td>
<td>555 Main Street, Hudson, CO 80642</td>
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<td>(303) 536-4550</td>
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<td>Kersey Library</td>
<td>413 1st Street, Kersey, CO 80644</td>
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<td>Lincoln Park Library</td>
<td>919 7th Street Suite 100, Greeley, CO 80631</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Plains Public Library</td>
<td>216 2nd Street, Ault, CO 80610</td>
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<td>(970) 834-1259</td>
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<td>Outreach</td>
<td>2650 W. 29th Street, Greeley, CO 80631</td>
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<tr>
<td>Platteville Public Library</td>
<td>504 Marion Ave., Platteville, CO 80651</td>
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<td>(970) 785-2231</td>
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<tr>
<td>Riverside Library &amp; Cultural Center</td>
<td>3700 Golden St., Evans, CO 80620</td>
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PUBLIC COMPUTER CENTERS

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<tr>
<td>Evans (Community Complex)</td>
<td>1100 37th Street, Evans, CO 80620</td>
<td>(970) 475-1125</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lochbuie (Senior Center)</td>
<td>501 Willow Drive, Lochbuie, CO 80603</td>
<td>(303) 659-8262</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milliken</td>
<td>1109 Broad Street, Milliken, CO 80543</td>
<td>(970) 660-5045</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nunn (Town Hall/Community Center)</td>
<td>185 Lincoln Avenue, Nunn, CO 80648</td>
<td>(970) 897-2385</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pierce (Plains Market)</td>
<td>139 West Main Street, Pierce, CO 80650</td>
<td>(970) 834-2150</td>
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AFFILIATED LOCATIONS

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<td>1100 37th Street, Evans, CO 80620</td>
<td>(970) 475-1125</td>
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<td>Hazel E. Johnson Research Center</td>
<td>714 8th Street, Greeley, CO 80631</td>
<td>(970) 350-9220</td>
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<td>Poudre Learning Center</td>
<td>8313 West F Street, Greeley, CO 80631</td>
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BOOK DEPOSITS

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<td>Hill &amp; Park Senior Center</td>
<td>4205 Yosemite Dr., Greeley, CO 80634</td>
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<td>Milliken Senior Center</td>
<td>1101 Broad Street, Milliken, CO 80543</td>
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<td>Pierce Senior Center</td>
<td>321 Main, Pierce, CO 80650</td>
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<td>Prairie View Senior Center</td>
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