Never Too Late to Learn

What is the secret to a long life? Dance. Have fun. Learn something new every day. This sage advice comes courtesy of Virginia Leitner, age 104, an artist and longtime St. Charles City-County Library user.

Virginia grew up in a small town. Her parents were immigrants who struggled with the English language, but they took Virginia to the local public library located in a little storefront near their home. The librarian there helped then 6-year-old Virginia choose books and develop a lifelong love of learning and reading. Virginia carried that love with her when she moved to St. Charles and discovered the many books and classes available at branches all over the county.

“Everything I learned, I learned from books,” she says. And learn, she did! Virginia has mastered many types of arts and crafts, including ceramics, painting, and wire sculpture. She helped her husband restore classic cars. She is proficient with computers and technology thanks to classes at the Library that she took years ago...when she was in her 90s. Despite having only an eighth grade education, Virginia reads philosophy, biographies, art instruction, self-help titles, and more.

Recently, Library staff helped Virginia connect to the *Hoopla* app on her iPad. Virginia receives regular book deliveries from a Library Outreach volunteer, but she is excited about her newfound ability to browse a wide variety of electronic books and materials, check them out from home, then start reading immediately. Throughout her life, Virginia has turned to the Library when she wanted to develop a new hobby, discover new ideas, or educate herself on a new topic. The eLibrary makes it even easier for her to access the materials she wants and needs.

*Hoopla* offers eBooks, audiobooks, movies, T.V. shows, and music that customers of all ages can check out from any internet-connected device with no waiting or holds. Customers like Virginia can adjust the print size on eBooks, making them easy to read - even on the small screen of a smartphone. *Hoopla* is one of the Library’s many eResources, available at myLibrary.org.
Are you interested in learning more about technology, trying a different type of book, or using a resource in the eLibrary? It's never too late to learn! Just ask Virginia.

The St. Charles City-County Library District is your Kaleidoscope of Discovery, with over 2 million visitors to our 12 branch locations each year. The Library inspires, informs, and enhances connections across St. Charles County with exciting events and classes for all ages, a robust collection of print and electronic materials, and spaces for the community to gather and learn. Discover myLibrary.org.