Why Do I Have to Pay for a Library Card?

Unlike many states which have county or state library systems, the primary tax support for New Hampshire libraries comes from the individual towns. The State of New Hampshire does not provide any direct financial assistance to public libraries in the state.

Howe Library and Etna Library have achieved their levels of excellence through the generous support of taxpayers. *The average household pays $256 per year, which excludes staff benefits.* Howe Library receives additional funding from The Howe Library Corporation’s endowment and fundraising efforts. These two funding sources make it possible to provide the best in library service at a reasonable cost.

*Those not able to afford the annual fee may have a social services agency or clergy member submit a letter to the Howe Library Director requesting a reduced fee.*

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**Fees, effective July 1, 2016:**

- **Annual fee / Non-resident household** $140.00
- **Annual fee / Senior household (65 and older)** $95.00
- **Three-month fee / Non-resident household** $60.00
- **Three-month fee / Senior household (65 and older)** $60.00

**No charge for:**

- Hanover/Dresden students, teachers, & staff (Individual card, not a household card)
- Current Town of Hanover employees (Individual card, not a household card)
- Dartmouth students (Individual card, not a household card)
- Local Institutions:
  - Hanover business owners
  - Hanover non-profit directors
  - Hanover preschool childcare providers