

Check It Out column for week of November 29-Dec.5

Save Money With Library's Online Resources

By Kathy Stutzman, WCPL Public Relations Manager

Look around you. It's hard to miss the changes from the unheard of until now unemployment rate of 15.5% in the county. Warsaw Community Public Library alone has seen a dramatic increase in the use of our computers, books, videos, magazine and newspapers. In fact, this February we had over 4000 more items checked out than in last February. We also had over 1000 more new library cardholders this February compared to last February. (To put that into context, the Library usually averages only 250 new cardholders during Library Card Signup Month.)

Many are attempting to save money wherever they can during this economic challenge. From canceling subscriptions to magazines and newspapers to dropping Internet service, people are searching for ways to stretch their money. People are fixing up cars instead of replacing them or repairing things in the home instead of calling in an expert.

One helpful resource that some have overlooked can be found at WCPL. It's our electronic database that can be accessed online in the library or from home. A number of them aid consumers in saving money. Planning to repaint the house? Check out **Consumer Reports** and get product reviews, test lab results, ratings, and save money by discovering the most recommended item.

Can't afford to replace your truck? Use the **Auto Repair Reference Center** for content that includes more than 33,100 vehicles covered from 1945 to present, over 250,000 drawings and step-by-step photographs, approximately 77,570 technical service bulletins & recalls issued by the original equipment vehicle manufacturer, over 144,600 enhanced wiring diagrams for easy viewing and printing, specifications & maintenance schedules, Labor Time Guide & Estimator; and more.

Lawnmower acting up? Go to the **Small Engine Repair Center** with its Clymer manuals containing thousands of accurate and concise step-by-step maintenance and repair instructions for hundreds of small engine machines for lawnmowers, boats, generators, motorcycles, and more.

Kids put a hole in the wall while playing? Go to the **Home Improvement Reference Center** that is designed to assist homeowners in do-it-yourself home repair, maintenance, and remodeling projects. All thumbs? No need to worry! There are step-by-step instructions for thousands of projects in the areas of plumbing, outdoor, woodworking, electrical, and decorating.

Maybe you just need to bring in some more money period. Inventory your possessions. Got a collection? You might want to check out our **Price It! Antiques and Collectibles** database with an antique/collectibles pricing tool, containing data from a variety of

sources, including online auctions (eBay), online antique dealers (GoAntiques & TIAS) and land-based auction houses.

So, what are you waiting for? Go to our site www.warsawlibrary.org, click “online resources” at the top of the home page, explore our database system and SAVE MONEY.