



Bartholomew County Public Library

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Providing resources for life-long learning and enjoyment

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY TO USE COLLECTION AGENCY

The Bartholomew County Public Library Board of Trustees recently entered into a 90-day trial agreement to use a collection agency to help encourage patrons with overdue materials to return them to the library. The Library Board voted to pass the \$10 service charge on to each patron whose account will be handled by the collection agency.

This new policy was developed with fairness to all library patrons in mind. Materials not returned are not available for others to use or borrow. Also, if materials are not returned, in most cases, money from the library budget is used to replace them. This same money could be much better used to purchase new items for patron use instead of replacing non-returned items.

The Library Board hopes this practice will encourage all library borrowers to return items by the date due. Most library items may be renewed in person at the circulation desk, over the telephone, or via the library's website, <http://www.barth.lib.in.us>.

The library will still notify patrons that their materials are overdue and patrons will have ample time to respond prior to being turned over for collection. Unique Management Services based in Jeffersonville, Indiana has been selected as the collection agency for the library. Unique Management works with libraries throughout the United States, Canada, and United Kingdom. They specialize in the recovery of overdue materials and have an excellent record of treating patrons professionally. Unique has over sixty clients in Indiana including the public libraries of Indianapolis-Marion County; Anderson; Greenwood and Jackson County.

The library is serious about recovering overdue materials. Patrons who do not return materials are stealing from the library and the community. Fortunately, only a very small percentage of patrons using the library do not return materials as agreed. This new policy will not affect the vast majority of patrons who return materials on time.

The Bartholomew County Public Library is committed to providing excellent service and having materials available that patron's desire.