

# Area Libraries Launch Video Streaming

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Washington Public Library patrons are now able to stream more than 30,000 blockbuster films, according to Library Director Nelson Appell.

The films became available for viewing Jan. 20 through the online platform, Kanopy, which carries a mix of new release films, documentaries, foreign-language films, classic cinema, independent films and educational videos, according to the company's website. Appell said patrons using the program will be able to watch up to 10 movies a month.

The announcement was made during the library board's meeting, Monday, Jan. 25. In the meeting, Appell also announced the library would offer patrons the chance to watch family-friendly arts and crafts videos through Creativebug, a streaming service which launched on the library's website Jan. 26.

Both services are provided through Scenic Regional Library, which Washington has an agreement with to use its resources.

Scenic Regional Library Director Steve Campbell told *The Missourian* he learned about the programs during library association conferences, and he hopes they will help fill the void created by the cancellation of in-person programming due to COVID-19.

The regional library system had planned on implementing Kanopy and Creativebug last year, but those plans were delayed due to the pandemic.

"With the budget being stable this year, we decided to add them," Campbell said.

Creativebug will cost the library system \$4,000 a year; Kanopy's cost depends on usage. "There is no annual or start up fee," Campbell said. "We pay a few dollars for each movie patrons watch."

Based on the county's population, Campbell estimated Kanopy would cost \$2,500 annually, but the system budgeted \$6,000.