



Loan Periods and Use Limits

Policy Number: LS 107

Effective: April 2021

Purpose

Loan periods and use limits are established in order to allow individual customers a reasonable amount of time to utilize library materials while making those items available to other users in a timely manner. Tampa-Hillsborough Public Library (THPL) sets controls on the use of library materials in order to maintain an effective and efficient inventory control.

Policy

Customers with a valid Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative (HCPLC) library card may check out material from any HCPLC library provided their accounts are in good standing without lost or damaged materials. Loan periods, use limits, grace periods, and return locations for circulating materials owned by THPL are approved by the Library Board and reviewed periodically. Current information is available in the Checkout Guide found in the *Using Your Library Card* brochure available on hcplc.org or by on-demand printing. Reference materials are not usually placed in circulation, but the Branch or Department Supervisor or authorized designee may authorize their loan and set the period of loan. The loan period for Interlibrary Loan (ILL) material is set by the lending library and generally is not more than 45 days. Renewals are not allowed. Authorized staff members reserve the right to impose any other limitations on use.

Procedure

THPL materials are subject to one regular checkout and two renewals if there are no Requests. Materials will automatically renew if they are not returned by the due date, the exception being material types that are non-renewable. Materials may be checked in after the 2 renewals have been used and another checkout cycle has begun if there are no Requests and the materials are presented in person. The Polaris circulation system blocks checkout when a customer has 35 items checked out. Checkout limits vary on electronic materials provided by third party vendors who set the limits. These checkouts are not included in the HCPLC limit of 35. Customers must have a card free of overdue, lost, or damaged materials, and renew expired library cards before checking out items.

Upon request, staff may authorize an extended vacation loan period of an additional three weeks.

Extensions are not permitted on items with Requests or ILL loans. Exceptions to the loan periods of materials are as follows:

- Homebound Books (NOT Borrow by Mail) circulate for 60 days.
- Books loaned on a corporate card circulate for up to 90 days.
- Materials loaned on the mobile vehicles circulate for six weeks.