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**Press release**

**Berlin Public Libraries Open for Borrowing Starting 11 May**

Berlin public libraries will re-open with limited borrowing services starting May 11, thanks to a coordinated decision made by the Berlin Association of Public Libraries, VÖBB (Verbund der Öffentlichen Bibliotheken Berlins). Berliners will once again be able to check out and return media in many library branches in each of Berlin’s 12 boroughs (Bezirke), as well as the Central and Regional Library ZLB (Zentral- und Landesbibliothek Berlin).

Berlin’s public libraries have been closed since March 13 due to the Berlin Senate’s ordinances to prevent the spread of the Corona virus. Now they will be able open for borrowing. Library services will be limited for the time being. Library locations will have different regulation depending on their on site specifics. Some branches will provide a counter for picking up media that users have ordered online, others will offer some form of self-service borrowing. The special offer for a free, 3-month library card for online media will end on May 11.

All these policies will be made available before May 11 on the VÖBB-website [www.voebb.de](http://www.voebb.de). There, users can also check the opening hours and addresses of those library branches which will open. On the same website, the users will once again be able to use the library catalog to order media in advance (recommended). The ordering function will be reactivated on May 11. Users choose a library location where they want to pick up their media and they will be notified when their order is ready.

For the time being, users may only visit the library briefly to borrow or return. For this reason, unfortunately, other library services cannot yet be offered.