



CITY OF SALINAS
LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

DATE: MARCH 12, 2025
FROM: KRISTAN LUNDQUIST, DIRECTOR
BY: TIM KUELKER, DEPUTY LIBRARIAN
TITLE: CHANGES TO PATRON ACCOUNT TYPES AT THE SALINAS PUBLIC LIBRARY

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive report and provide feedback.

BACKGROUND:

Patron accounts (library cards) are the gateway to the library for the vast majority of our patrons, with over 33,000 patrons holding accounts with the Salinas Public Library. As such, how patrons qualify for an account with the Salinas Public Library and what that account provides them in regard to accessing the facilities, collections, and services associated with the Library is of paramount importance to library operations and our goal of providing users access to their library with as few barriers as possible.

Current Patron Account Types

The Salinas Public Library currently has nine (9) patron account types. The eligibility criteria for patrons to qualify for an account, and the access that each account provides its holder is detailed in **Appendix A – Current Patron Account Types**. Of important note, two (2) account types are not currently in use by the Salinas Public Library – the Smart Card account type, which was an account type that was part of a pilot program that allowed students to use their school-issued Student ID number to access library services that has since ended, and the Internet Card, which was originally meant to provide access to the public computers only at Salinas Public Libraries, and has been recently replaced by open access to our public computers.

Other aspects of the Salinas Public Library's account types have aged, putting the Library behind modern library trends that aim to reduce the barriers to communities wanting to access their public library. These have prompted exploration into how the Library can better serve residents of Salinas through making obtaining a library card, and utilizing the services provided by the library, easier.

New Patron Account Types

The Salinas Public Library is proposing to reduce the number of patron account types from nine (9) to six (6), as well as make changes to the eligibility criteria of each patron account type. This

is detailed in **Appendix B – New Patron Account Types**. Most notably, the Salinas Public Library is proposing to organize patron account types into three (3) categories:

- **Full access accounts** that will provide holders full access to the collection. These accounts will require proof of identification via the provision of one (1) piece of government-issued ID upon application. This is done not to limit patron eligibility, but to protect the resources of the library through ensuring that we know who we are loaning our materials to. Account types will be Adult (18+), Youth (0-17), and Homebound for those unable to leave their homes.
- **Limited access accounts** that will provide users limited access to the collection. These accounts provide limited access to our collection but full access to our computers and digital resources to individuals in our community who desire to access the library but do not have the ID required for a full access account. As above, this is done not to limit patron use of the library, but to instead protect the resources of the library through ensuring that we only offer a limited number of materials to those who do not have identification. Account types will be Limited Access which allow two (2) materials to be checked out at any time and Digital Access which required no identification and allows access to computers and digital resources only.
- **Institutional accounts** that are designed not for individuals, but for educators such as teachers, schools, and day cares, with full access to the library collection.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

Not a Project. The City of Salinas has determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378).

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

This ordinance update supports the following strategic goals:

- Youth and Seniors
- Public Safety

DEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION

No departmental coordination.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

No fiscal impact.

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix A – Current Patron Account Types
Appendix B – New Patron Account Types