



Downloadables: hoopla App

Learning Objectives:

- What is hoopla?
- How does the app work?
- How do you setup?
- Available items.
- Differences with Libby.



Helpful to have:

- Basic computer skills.

Revised 9-13-24

To see a list of upcoming computer classes go to:
www.buffalolib.org/whats-happening/makerspace-technology or call (716) 858-8900.



(716) 858-8900
www.BuffaloLib.org



What is on hoopla?

hoopla is a free library service for borrowing digital materials, which include:

- Audiobooks.
- Comics.
- Ebooks.
- Movies.
- Music.
- Television.

Some caveats include:

- Music:
 - You download the entire album, not individual songs.
 - You do NOT get to keep the music - it gets returned like a normal item.
 - TV:
 - You download individual episodes, not entire seasons.
 - Magazines:
 - Magazines are NOT available - unlike on Libby.
-

Devices

The hoopla app can be used on a wide range of devices. These include:

- Mobile devices such as tablets and phones.
- Roku-powered devices such as streaming sticks and smart TVs.
- Amazon Fire-powered devices such as streaming sticks and smart TVs.
- Google-powered TVs.
- Apple TV.

How do you get the app? Visit your device's app store. Some examples:

- Apple App Store.
- Google Play Store.
- Amazon App Store.
- Roku Channel Store.

****Be advised****

hoopla items do NOT work with Kindle eReaders as there is no way to transfer the items over to an Amazon account. The hoopla app can be installed on Amazon Fire devices to read, watch, or listen to items.

Libby vs. hoopla

In addition to hoopla, the library already subscribes to another downloadables service - Libby. But what are the differences between the two services?

“Libby”

- Up to 20 items checked out at once.
- Unlimited checkouts/month.
- Holds lists (wait lists) are possible.

‘hoopla’

- Limited checkouts/month.
 - The Buffalo and Erie County Public Library allows for 5 total items/month.
 - This limit starts at the beginning of the month.
 - BUT there are no wait lists!!!
 - You see an item, you can check it out and use right away.
-

App Setup

“hoopla Account”

Using hoopla requires creating an account with them using an email address and a password BEFORE adding your library card number, unlike Libby where you just need a library card number.

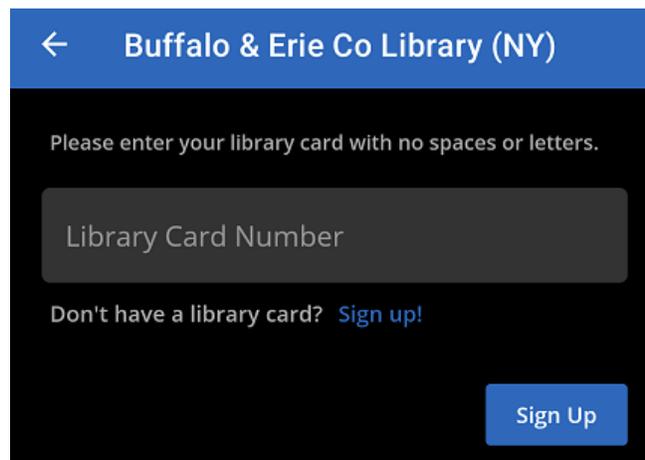
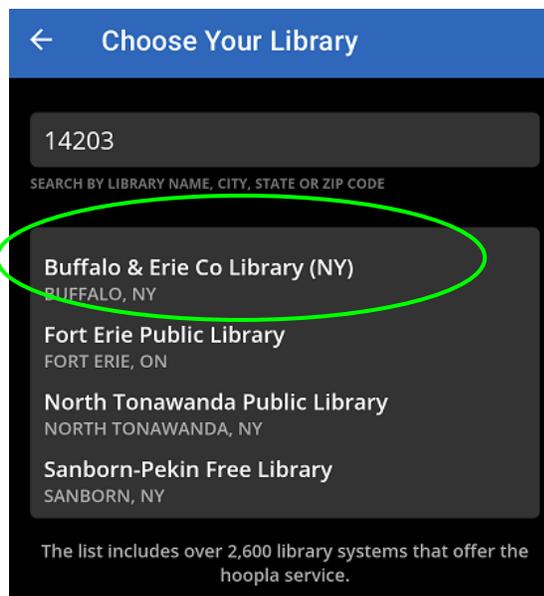
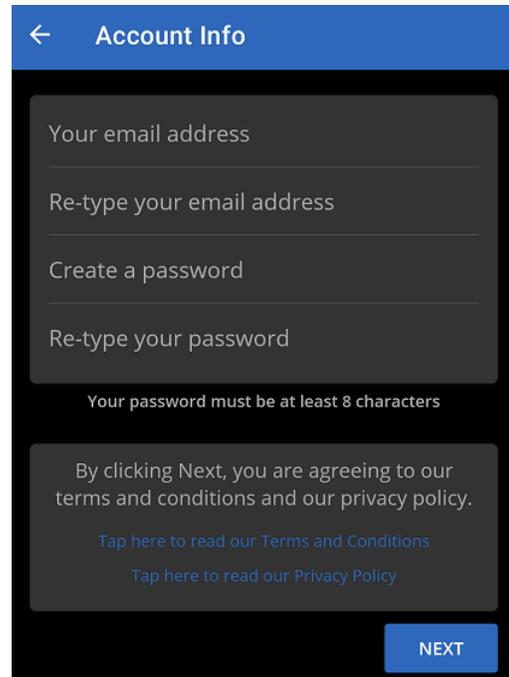
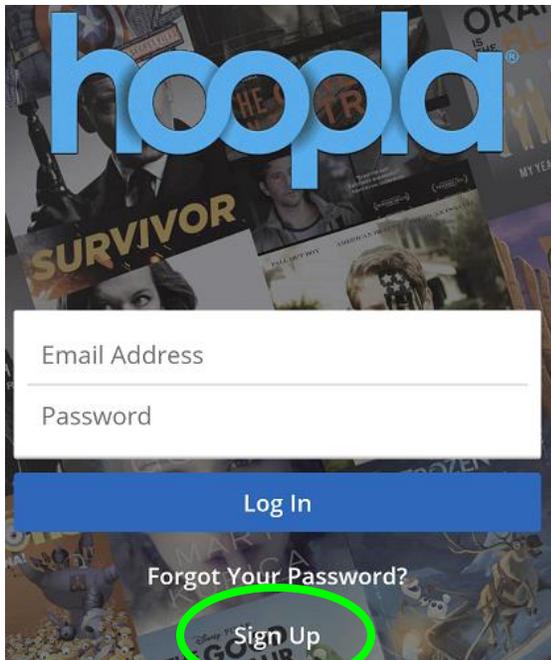
You can create an account through the app, but if you do create one through the website, it can still be used to sign into the app.

****Be advised****

The app setup might be different based on your device.

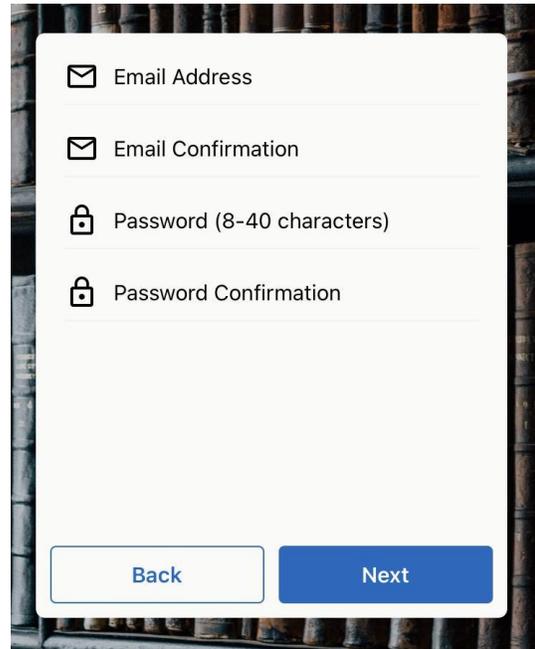
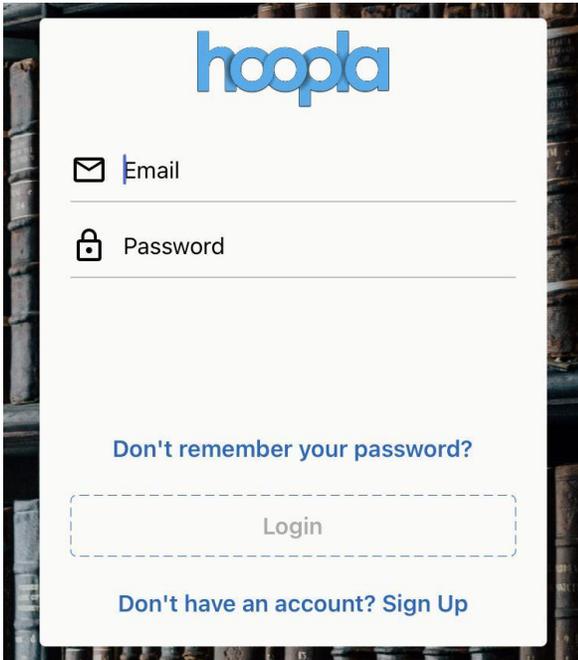
“Android”

1. Open the app and tap “Sign Up.”
2. Add email and password.
3. Setup your library by selecting the location and entering your library card number.



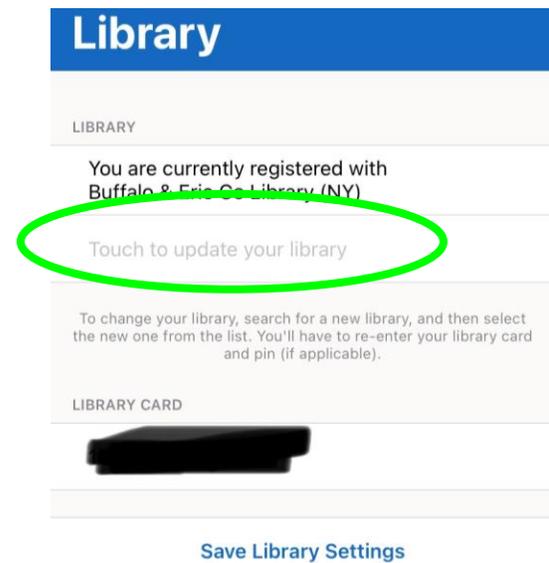
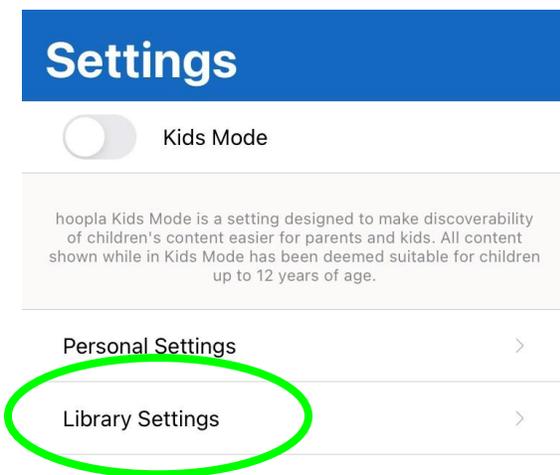
“Apple”

1. Open the app and tap “Sign Up.”
2. Add email and password.
3. Setup your library by selecting the location and entering your library card number.

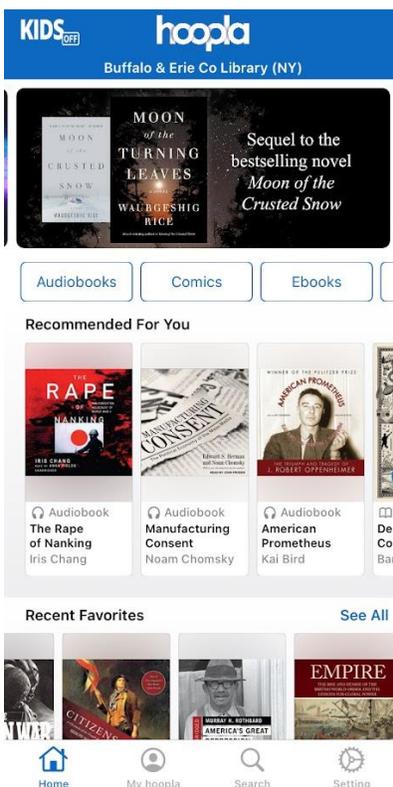


****Be advised****

If you already have a hoopla account setup, you can immediately sign into the app. However, if that account is setup with another library, you need to change that to the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library within your app's settings (find the gear symbol within your app).



Home and Category Pages



“Home”

Home is the starting page for hoopla. You will see:

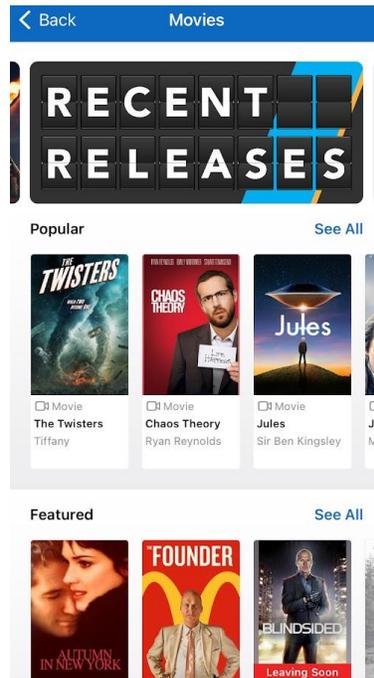
- Broad item categories such as “Audiobooks” and “Comics.”
- Recommendations.
- Suggestions.
- Trends.

“Category Pages”

Category pages are sections of hoopla dedicated to a specific type of digital item. They are similar to Home because they provide recommendations and suggestions. The categories include:

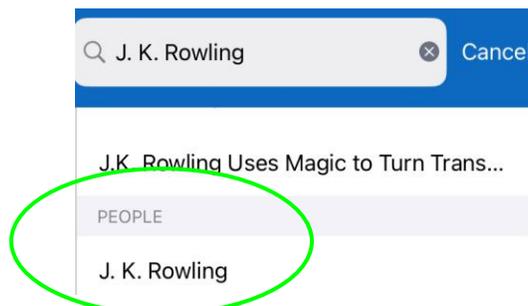
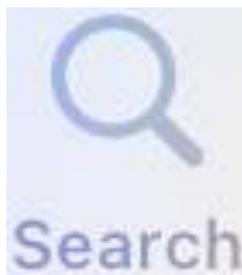
- Audiobooks.
- Comics.
- Ebooks.
- Movies.
- Music.
- Television.

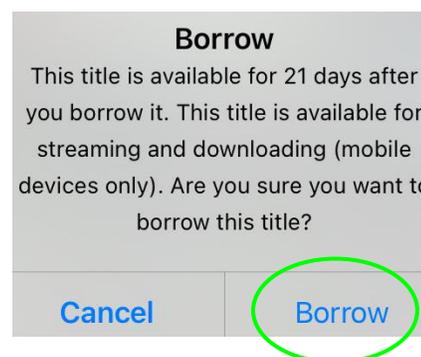
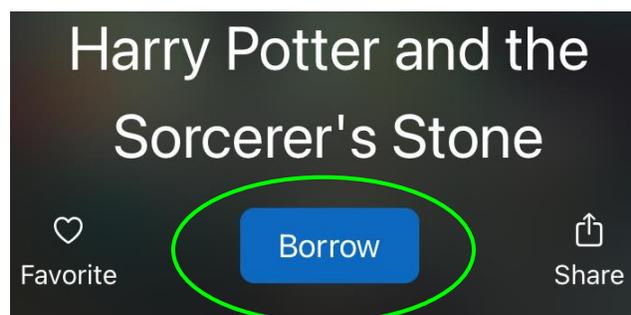
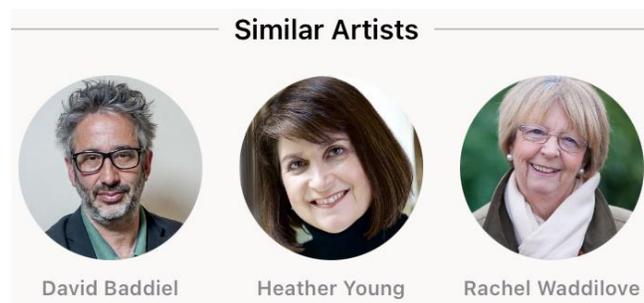
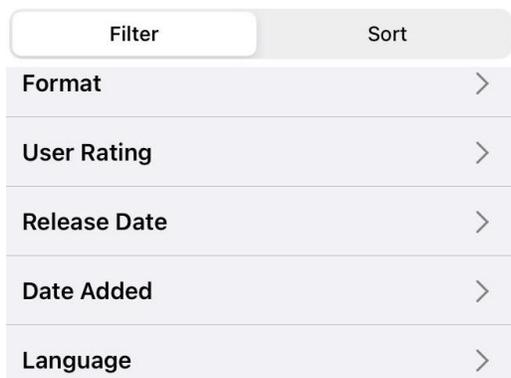
- BingePasses.
 - The image below shows what one of these pages looks like (“Movies”).



Catalog Search Example

1. Tap the “Search” icon.
2. Type in title, author, etc...
3. If desired, use filters to reduce results.
4. If desired, after tapping on an item, scroll down to find “Similar Artists” if you want to find writers like your selected author.
5. Items provide a couple different options BEFORE borrowing:
 - a. “Favorite” an item if you want to save for later.
 - b. “Share” allows you to post a description to social media, email, etc...
6. When ready, tap “Borrow” and then “Borrow” again to officially check out the item.



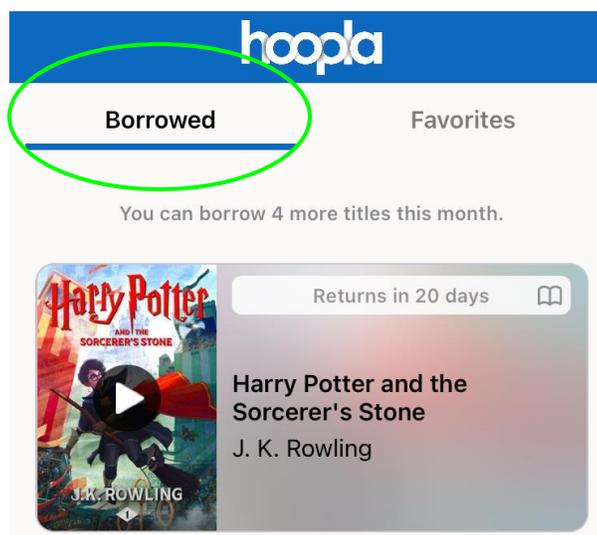
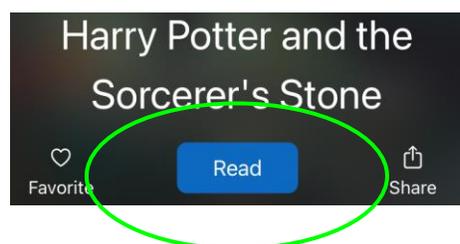


Using an Item

Once an item is officially borrowed, it will download automatically to your device.

From there, you have two options to access the item:

- After pressing “Borrow” as described above, tap “Read” or “Play” OR...
- Visit the “Borrowed” tab under “My hoopla” and tapping on the item.

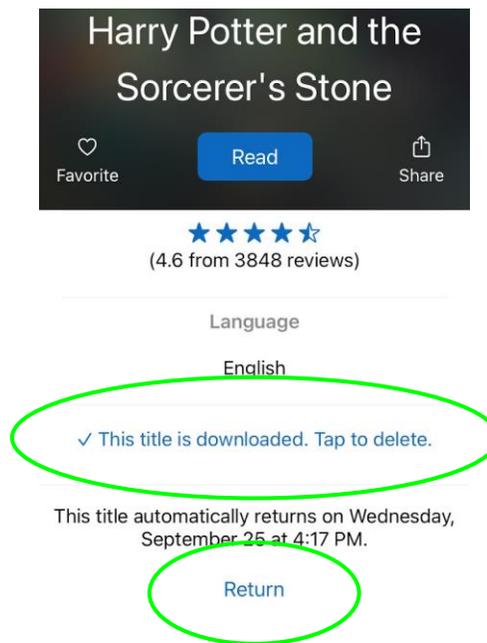


“Managing Items”

Returns are automatic, with your items being removed from your account at the end of your checkout period.

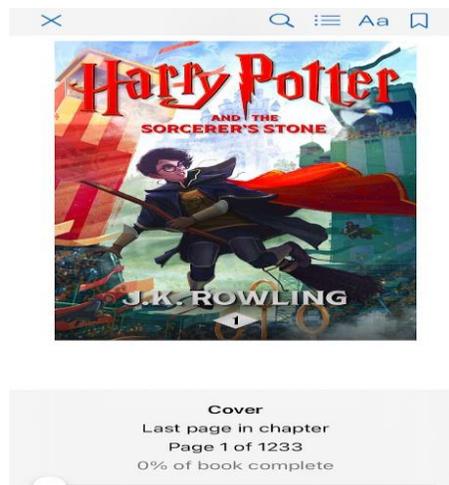
Unlike Libby, hoopla does not allow from holds because they are a “no holds” service, thus no wait lines ever develop.

By tapping on the item, you will be given the options to either return the item early OR delete the downloaded version of the item (this keeps the item still accessible with an Internet connection and you can still re-download during your checkout period).



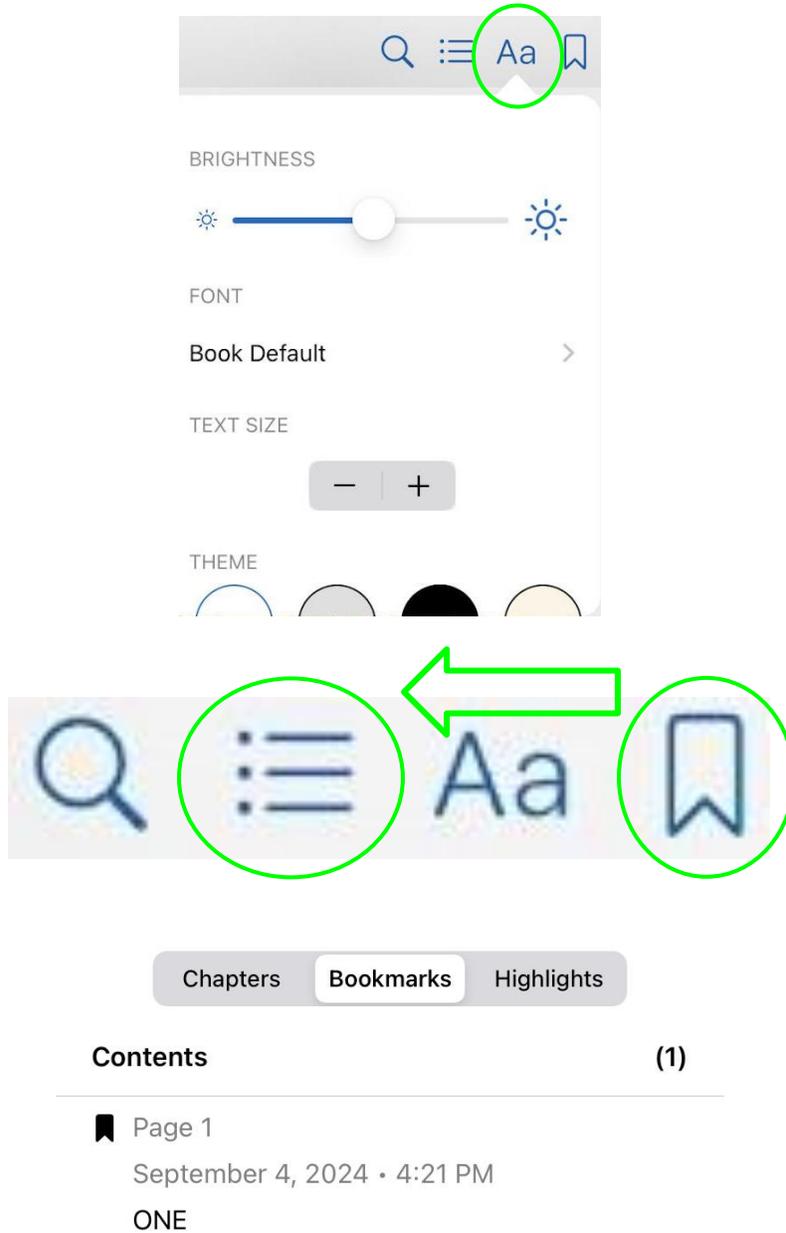
Item Example (Ebook)

Tapping on the “Read” option for an item will take you to the page below:



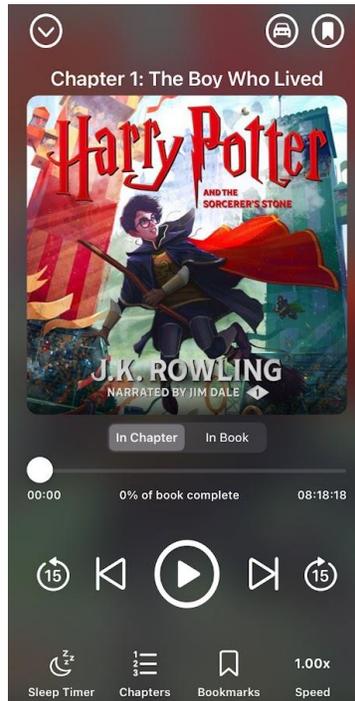
The top right corner gives you some different item editing options:

- “Aa”
 - Change your viewing experience, whether by changing the brightness, font style, font size, or the background theme.
- “Bookmarks”
 - Tap the ribbon symbol to save the spot you are currently in.
 - Tap the “bullet dashes” to bring up your bookmarks.



Item Example (audiobook)

Tapping on the “Play” option for an item will take you to the page below:



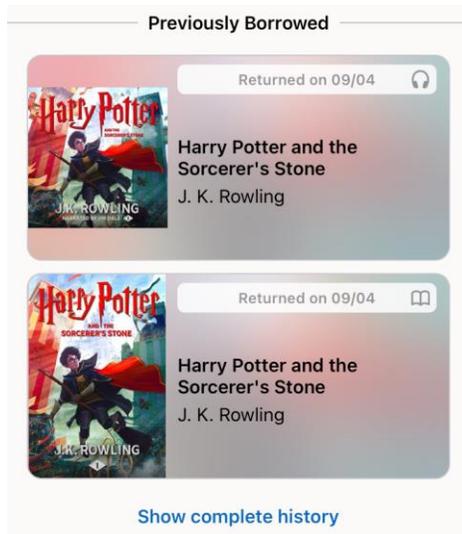
Various different item options appear directly on screen:

- Pause/play.
- Skip track buttons.
- The ability to bookmark a spot (bookmark symbol).
- Adjust the speed of the audio.
- Car Mode (which gives a simplified item screen for car use) (see image below).



Previously Borrowed

“Previously Borrowed” is where you can view your checkout history. This section is located within “Borrowed” under “My hoopla.” It will display your latest returns right away, but you can see your full history by tapping on “Show complete history.”



BingePasses

In the **Libby vs. hoopla** section, it was mentioned that hoopla has a limited checkout system, meaning patrons of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library can only check out FIVE total items of any kind per month. However, hoopla offers a special service called a “BingePass” that gets around this limit somewhat. “BingePasses” are checkable collections where a patron checks out ONE pass and it only counts as ONE checkout. A patron then receives unlimited access to all the items within the pass without having them count against their limit. Some of the options offered by the Library’s hoopla account include:

- “Great Courses” (college-level discussions on a variety of topics).
- “Curiosity Stream” (documentaries).
- “Hallmark Movies Now.”
- Variety of kid and family friendly content channels.

Bonus Borrows

Bonus borrows are a selection of items that do NOT count towards checkout limits.

What is available will appear on a monthly basis for the seven days of each month (it used to be every three months).

On a Smart TV

“What can use hoopla?”

- Roku TV and sticks.
- Fire TV and sticks.
- Google TVs.
- Apple TV.

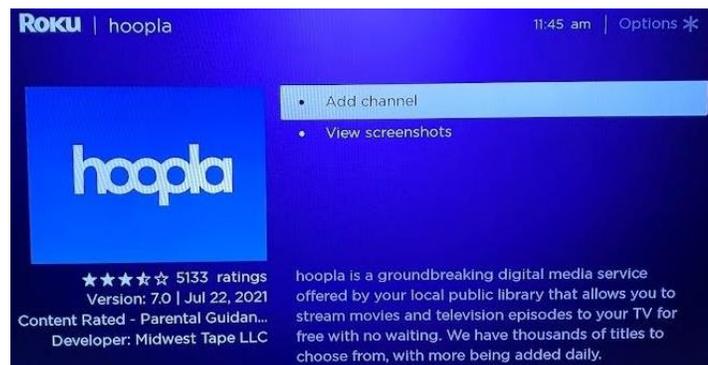
However, the functionality is limited because you can only:

- Watch movies.
- Watch TV.
- Listen to audiobooks.

Warning

The following example is adding hoopla to a Roku stick., but the process is similar to what will occur on other streaming devices.

1. Go to the Roku Channel Store and search for “hoopla.”
2. Install hoopla.
3. Access the hoopla app or website on another device where you are signed in.
4. Enter the confirmation code from the first screen

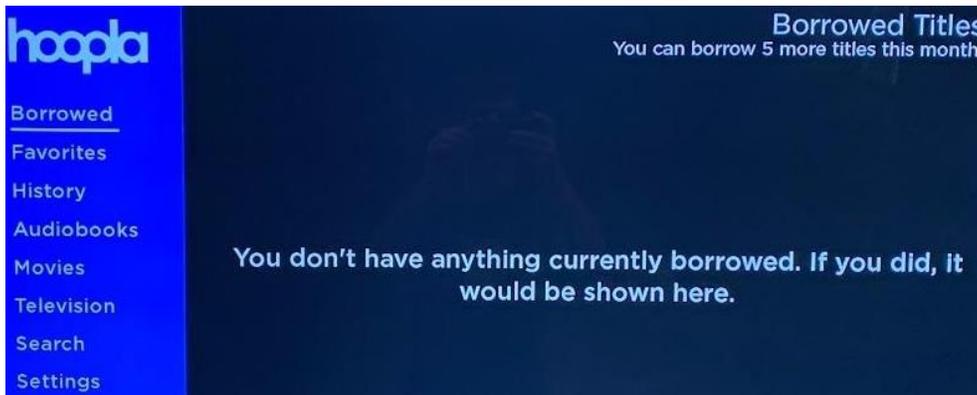




Link your device
Enter the code from your device to link it to
your hoopla account.

Code

PROCEED



You are now set up!

“Checking Out”

It is easier to do the checkout process on a mobile device because it can be difficult to type using a remote. All mobile checkouts will still appear on a TV. However, you can still search for and select items through the TV app (see images below).

