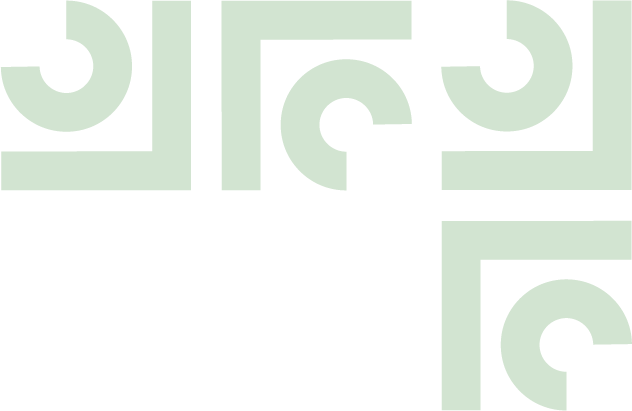
**Digital events for adults**



During the lockdown period librarians have been gathering examples of a range innovative online activities that libraries have been running with their communities. This list highlights some of the wide range of activities for adults. It is not a list of every adult library activity online, but examples which showcase digital activities that are popular and working well.

**Content:**

* Online creative partnerships
* Online learning
* Video
* Author events
* Articles and blogs
* Podcasts
* Reading groups - traditional and informal
* Twitter book chats
* Writing groups
* Quizzes.

| Activity | Platform | Characteristics | Why it works | Examples |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Online creative partnerships | Any | Interactive, challenges, video, theatre, stories. | The digital knowledge and experience of arts organisations plus the wide audience of libraries can make social media activities extra special during lockdown. Many library services are still working together in creative partnerships to continue to bring great art and stories to you. | **Manchester Libraries**  [10-week Challenge](https://manclibraries.blog/2020/05/01/brand-new-10-week-creative-challenge-for-young-people-in-manchester/) with Creative Spaces and Manchester Libraries. Take art in a weekly creative challenge and share the results online  <https://manclibraries.blog/2020/05/01/brand-new-10-week-creative-challenge-for-young-people-in-manchester/>  **Wakefield Libraries** Creative Tales - book recommendations with [creative activities](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TGtgMVNZNHNuDOVnvtAJ477ODy3GnIRj/view) inspired by the book in partnership with the Little Angel Theatre. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TGtgMVNZNHNuDOVnvtAJ477ODy3GnIRj/view>  **Lancashire Libraries** Spot On Stories  Lancashire Libraries and Spot On Lancashire have produced Spot On Stories are ten-minute micro shows filmed by some of the artists that tour Lancashire Libraries with Spot On. Bite-sized video moments, made for the people of Lancashire, so that for 10 minutes, wherever you are, you can lose yourself in a really good story. <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/libraries/spot-on-stories/>  **Barking and Dagenham Libraries:** Pen to Print  The library NPO Pen to Print project has moved its creative writing classes and workshops online, booking via Eventbrite. The associated Write On Magazine is now a digital edition with daily themed blogs, some linked to the current Covid-19 situation. <https://pentoprint.org/>  **North Somerset** are running an online play writing workshop later this month with Papatango Theatre Company using Zoom. 30 tickets on Eventbrite were all taken in one day. Joining instructions will be sent the day before the event.  <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-play-writing-workshop-scene-building-via-zoom-tickets-107534227770> |
| Online learning | Various platforms | Interactive Webinars and workshops | Help people keep their brain occupied. Libraries can feed their interests or offer the chance to learn a new skill. Online workshops are proving popular. Weekdays without a commute (for some) and weekends with nowhere to go can leave people feeling anxious and restless. Libraries are helping their residents dedicate some of that extra time to learn new skills including starting a business, tai chi, genealogy, yoga and more.  Small groups on Zoom so not too impersonal and space for your questions to be answered. Sessions run from 10 - 2.30 each week giving time to learn, discuss and complete activities. Run in partnership with Break into Business so tutor has experience of running remote collaborative workshops. Libraries promote and book the workshop spaces whilst business expert Wendy provides the content.  Lambeth have tight security procedures to make sure Zoom is safe, cleared by their council IT department. A member of library staff is on duty during the event to make sure there are no problems. You join by invitation and promotions don’t advertise the library using Zoom as another way to avoid ‘zoombombing’. ‘Lambeth Council policy is no Zoom, so my team had to work hard to get this approved. We found that MS Teams did not do what we needed. Other platforms like WhatsApp have GDPR issues as phone numbers are shared.  Where we can we don’t use Zoom, but for some things it is the best platform. Security is critical and we control use really closely.’ Susanna Barnes  Service Manager: Libraries and Archives, London Borough of Lambeth.  Topical expert lead online workshops with great feedback from attendees.  A really wide programme with activities for a range of audiences and ages including arts and culture, digital, graphic design and privacy. An easy to use website with a full schedule of events and classes. | **Manchester Libraries Business and IP Centre:** Startup Step Up Resilient Business workshops.  This online programme is designed to support entrepreneurs in this unprecedented  time. Delivered by business expert Wendy Breakell, sessions take place in small groups on Zoom on Thursdays between 10.30 – 2pm <https://askaboutbusiness.org/startupstepup>  **Lambeth Libraries** run Tai Chi, ESOL and Local History classes using Zoom. You can see their schedule on Twitter <https://t.co/pPNVR2BRCs>  **British Library** Living Knowledge Network online webinars  Digital Engagement: a jargon-free introduction to Library Marketing and Communication  <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/3640958395776379920>  Building engagement on Twitter during the pandemic  <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/7473815247676093446>  Working Well Remotely  <https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/7640038315300536066>  Mindfulness and Wellbeing  <https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/4003754350927299846>  Working with Purpose and Intention  <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/5236157352237645831>  Toronto Public Libraries have taken most of their learning online with a dedicated workshop website. Their events include literary and cultural talks with authors and local figures, a special Pride programme for June, plus live interactive classes on web design, coding and more.  <https://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/programs-and-classes/> |
| Videos | YouTube  Facebook | Entertaining or instructional | Video is the most popular content on the web. Both the examples here feature real people. Real people can be far more interesting than a politician reciting lines plus real people and staff also have more friends on Facebook who are more likely to view and share the content.  Richmond on Thames staff explain the service in an interesting way, plus it has subtitles for greater accessibility leading to over 1500 views. It manages to be formal, touching and light-hearted at the same time. Over 1500 views.  It’s fab to see so many staff having fun and participating. It’s hard not to smile and the soundtrack is perfect. and the whole video gives a great sense of community and personality.  Top video tips from the video creator Paula Carley, service Development Coordinator at Manchester Libraries:  ‘I used iMovie to edit, there are lots of other easy to use editing software. Find whatever you're comfortable using. I've often recorded and edited storytime sessions on my phone.  When people film themselves using phones they will often use the front-facing camera so they can see themselves. This means text - ie book titles - will be back to front. Most software will let you flip the video clip but be aware it will also reverse audio in the clip unless you detach it.  Finding music for free with permissions was the hardest part of the process. There’s a lot of music out there donated for film projects, but it can be quite a confusing process.  Clips are usually best filmed in landscape, but some smartphones wouldn't allow that. In the end it didn't matter as it added to the quirk and gave it lovely made at home feel, shakiness and all.  Limit people to how many seconds you want and be very clear about what you're asking them to do.  Play around with the speed of the piece. If all the clips were in real time it would have ended up a much longer film. I want people to watch it all the way to the end.  The hardest thing was reminding people to participate! I had to extend the deadline and send reminder emails. If you're doing anything that involves collecting lots of clips from folks download and save to a folder immediately naming them Also set up a simple table to record the names of everyone who contributes. | **Richmond upon Thames Libraries**: Home Delivery Service YouTube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bdDVX3K3AE>      **Manchester Libraries, Information and Archives**: Psst Pass the Book video. Manchester Libraries from Home staff share their love of reading with some of their fave books!  Everyone filmed themselves with their phones and sent in their clips via What's App or email. Music by: Rytham Gitane - The Underscore Orkestra, Creative Commons Attribution Licence. |
| How to videos | YouTube  Facebook  Instagram | Watch and learn – can interact in comments | How to videos are hugely popular and recent research shows 72% of people surveyed would rather watch a video about a product or service than a static webpage.  There are tonnes of videos on YouTube to help you learn how to use social media live streaming services. Videos should always be shot landscape and don't stand in front of a window. We can't see you!  Titles make a video look professional and subtitles make the video accessible to all. | Norfolk Libraries: Get Knitting4pm [on Facebook](https://en-gb.facebook.com/NorfolkLibrariesUK/) [Catch up on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SpMmcszid6o)  North Ayrshire: How to Borrowbox <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqFUbRjJ8f0>  Surrey Libraries: Crafts for adults <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKZ-Ko8eYRnpq26M2X2f_ohPP5JKfg71z> |
| Author events | Facebook  Instagram |  | In this book launch from home Oldham Library’s Suzanne interviews Phaedra Patrick about her latest novel, The Secrets of Sunshine. The video is informal and light-hearted. It’s interesting to see an author talk about her writing and lovely to have Phaedra read from her new book. Suzanne and Phaedra have great chemistry, take technical hitches in their stride and it’s a joy to watch. Kudos to Sam Thornley of Oldham Libraries for the technical wizardry.  Instagram, Twitter and Facebook all have live stream options too.  A reasonably good smartphone is totally adequate for hosting a livestream - you don’t need fancy cameras and microphones. Social media platforms are designed to make going live as user-friendly as possible. If you’re still not sure, YouTube has countless ‘how to’ guides you can browse to build your confidence! | Phaedra Patrick launches new novel via Facebook Live for Oldham Libraries using StreamYard <https://www.facebook.com/106045816098199/videos/676028763250463/> |
| Articles and Blogs | Various | Watch/listen/ read | Topical advice from Hillingdon Libraries written in an informal caring tone with prompts and guides to help someone who may be feeling depressed.  In this weekly series, the stories, memories, poems and writing from people who lived, worked or wrote about the area of Lewisham are read by others with Lewisham connections. The blog links to YouTube videos where you can hear the poems. The content is creative, local and interesting - directly related to the residents of Lewisham.  Books and The City looks at two mid-twentieth century women artists. Westminster have around 40 of their paintings. This is almost like an online exhibition with well researched content, promoting Westminster’s resources. | Hillingdon Libraries Blog: How to help your loved one through depression  <https://hillingdonlibraries.wordpress.com/2020/06/03/how-to-help-your-loved-one-through-depression/>  Lewisham Libraries Blog: Chrissie Gittins - Lewisham Voices  Westminster Libraries Blog: Prospects of Pimlico and Marylebone: the work of two women artists  <https://wcclibraries.wordpress.com/2020/06/05/prospects-of-pimlico-and-marylebone-the-work-of-two-women-artists/> |
| Podcast | Podbean  Sound-Cloud  iTunes |  | The Libraries Unlimited Podcast started on May 15. It showcases different library services and events. The most recent episode looks at the Naxos music streaming service. Each episode is chatty and friendly. Last about 25 minutes.  This regular podcast delves into classic literature in translation. The podcast links to the Around the World in 80 Books blog, where you can also read the first chapter of the novel being discussed.  Bury’s podcast has three presenters with personality and some excellent guests. A podcast that is all about books, reading, author interviews, libraries and laughs. Hosted by David, David and Sarah from Bury Libraries + Archives. During lockdown they have produced Isolation Special podcasts. The content is always topical and there are also a lot of laughs. | Libraries Unlimited podcast started 15 May.  <https://librariesunlimited.podbean.com/?fbclid=IwAR2zWkXm0XmZsPmXReRWLQwAobwO6M_ZACCs2Ic96ClQ572hVEyfV5BTTE0>  Norfolk Libraries Podcast - Around the World  in 80 Books  <https://norfolklibrariespodcast.wordpress.com/>  Bury Libraries - Dinosaurs Didn’t Read  https://audioboom.com/channels/4988486 |
| Reading groups | Facebook  Twitter  Zoom/conferencing platform  Facebook groups | Interactive and can be live | Your regular reading groups will be missing their regular meetings but these libraries have taken some steps to create new types of reading groups online using various platforms including Zoom and Facebook Groups. There’s no reason why online reading groups need to disband after lockdown. They are proving to be a popular service. Manchester’s Virtual Reading group, hosted on Facebook, gained 200 members in the first fortnight.  Listen to Carly bring uplifting stories to life and have a chance to discuss what has been read with no pressure to read aloud or having to read between sessions. A most relaxing activity suitable for everyone.  How to attend: Sign up for a free account on Zoom and download it to your device (laptop, tablet or phone). Email Carly and receive your invitation. Log in and join her every Tuesday at 11.  Facebook Groups are fast and easy to set up, low maintenance, members provide content with their own posts, no sets of books to buy or find. Manchester Libraries are a great example of a lively group that grew quickly to 200+ members during lockdown.  East Riding’s group looks professional and is linked to from the library website. Facebook book chat groups are a fast, low maintenance way to keep readers connected in your library social media space.  Facebook book chat groups are low maintenance and can grow quickly because people share them. These are friendly informal spaces led by the public rather than the librarian. The public post recommendations, reviews, pictures of the book - whatever they fancy. It's organic, members invite their friends and members post most of the content. | Norfolk Libraries - Summer Reading by the Beach Club via Zoom  Every Tuesday in June, 11am to 12 noon.  **Informal Facebook book groups**  Benefits: Examples: City of Melbourne’s [*What Are You Reading*](https://www.facebook.com/groups/267034694298401/), [*Manchester Libraries Virtual Book Club*](https://www.facebook.com/groups/manchesterlibrariesvirtualbookclub/)*,* East Riding’s[*Face in Book Group*](https://www.facebook.com/groups/183777772840799/)good example of professional presentation and linked to on the main [library website](https://www.eastridinglibraries.co.uk/libraries-online/online-book-club). |
| Twitter book chat | Twitter | Interactive, lively, no limit to numbers | Twitter chats are great because anyone can join, there no sign in requirements, just follow the hashtag.  TIPS: Choose a new hashtag. Pick a date and time and promote widely, not just on Twitter. Put posters in your window! Create engaging questions ahead of time for your discussion. Have a time limit for the event. Remember to thank and comment on people’s posts - be a considerate moderator. Bring in guest tweeters to help you host your chat -colleagues or a writer or celebrity if possible! Promote your Twitter chat ahead of time. Start your Twitter chat on time. Some Twitter chats publish the questions on a separate webpage/blog/google doc before the session. If you decide to do this ensure you include the link to the questions in any publicity. | Blackpool Libraries [#bookpool](https://twitter.com/hashtag/bookpool?src=hashtag_click)  Greater Manchester Libraries [#GMReads](https://twitter.com/hashtag/GMReads?src=hashtag_click)  Cambridgeshire Libraries daily TwitterChat at 2pm with weekly guest authors [#CambslibChat](https://twitter.com/hashtag/CambslibChat?src=hashtag_click&f=live) |
| Writing Groups |  |  | Staying creative is tough even at the best of times so there's nothing like a writing workshop or group for giving your writing schedule some support.  Stoke-on-Trent post a writing challenge every Monday on Facebook. Participants receive a prompt (word and image) and can respond with a poem (up to 25 lines) or piece of flash fiction (up to 300 words).  The host will post some optional prompts and word count challenges at the beginning of each session, then we all shut up and write for 60 minutes straight.  Sessions take place at 4-5pm every Tuesday on the Shut Up and Write Facebook Event page  [https://www.facebook.com/events/700644400688486](https://www.facebook.com/events/700644400688486/) | Stoke-on-Trent Libraries: Weekly Writing Challenge  Norfolk Libraries - weekly Shut Up and Write session |
| Quiz | Facebook  Twitter | Varies on interaction |  | St Helens’ Libraries weekly Twitter Quiz, [#sthlibrariesquiz](https://twitter.com/hashtag/StHLibrariesQuiz?src=hashtag_click) every Wednesday at 2pm, is a fun activity break and it’s getting quite competitive!  Buckinghamshire have just started a short weekly online adults and children’s quiz for the weekend. Just for fun, with answers posted on Monday on Twitter and Facebook. |

<http://stagetext.org/training> adding subtitles to YouTube videos

Canva <https://www.canva.com/> for social media post and profile images. Thousands of free designs.

Authors: Wendy Kent, Explore York and Sue Lawson, Manchester City Council