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MANGAUNG LIBRARIES ONLINE: INFORMATION AT YOUR FING

ibraries are hubs of education, giving residents access to books, magazines and other forms of information. Imagine if you could I do all this online? The Mangaung library services has gone online to ensure that while the world continues to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, residents can still browse, borrow and read their favourite books.

The Communication Unit recently visited the Adelaide Tambo Public Library to chat to Chief Librarian, Ronel Jacobs about the decision to move the city's library services online.

Jacobs explained that currently, seven of the nine libraries are operational and according to the national regulations, libraries had to be closed during alert level 4. "We couldn't render any services during level 4 and last year libraries could only open during level 1. We had to look at a way that would allow us to continue rendering services to the residents without creating an influx to any of our libraries," said Jacobs.

She added that a website was created last year which gave library cardholders the option to select the books they want to borrow online. Once the library staff has put the books together, the patron will receive an SMS informing them the books are ready for collection. Jacobs









said people can login and look at the catalogue. "Previously, people were only allowed to take out a maximum of six books over a two-weeks period and that has changed. One can take out books for a longer period, with pensioners being allowed to take books out for two months,' explained Jacobs.

Jacobs said she encourages residents to get a library membership card to enjoy the full benefits of what the city's libraries have to offer.

Library patron, Tumelo Xoliso from Bainsvlei, who was visiting the Adelaide Tambo Public said he is happy that the library has re-opened and that he can now focus on his schoolwork without any disturbances. "I am currently studying Electrical Engineering at the Motheo TVET College and I have been coming to this library for almost two years to use the study area," said Xoliso.

MANGAUNG NEWS UPDATE

This platform has been created to communicate all the activities, projects, events and the latest developments within MMM. If an individual Directorate wants to publish their information, please contact the communications unit: (Tel: 051-4058212 or e-mail gondile.khedama@mangaung.co.za)