Meet Libby

Maxwell Memorial Library
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Summary: Overdrive says that eventually they will be discontinuing the old Overdrive app, so eventually only Libby will be available. Libby has a more attractive look and feel than the Overdrive app, and it has some features that make using it somewhat more straightforward. However, for the moment, if Overdrive is working well for you, then switching might not be worth it.

I have not yet been able to find major differences between Overdrive and Libby in terms of capabilities. Both apps do the following:

- Work with library cards from multiple library systems

- Provide the ability to read e-pub books within the app

- Take you to Amazon.com within the app if you choose to check the Kindle version of an item out

  Although you still have to go to Amazon in order to take care of sending the item to your device, you no longer have to put Overdrive aside and open the Web browser to get this step done.

- Navigation for checking out in both versions uses the same Webpage-like interface that you're already used to.

Differences

- Reading settings

  - Libby only allows choice of size scaling, color scheme (black on white, black on sepia, or white on black), and "**Book design**" (typeface is the most prominent part of this control, but each choice packages its typeface with several more subtle design factors that the user then doesn't have to think about).

  - Overdrive gives you finer-grained control over the various aspects of "book design" and doesn't have any of the pre-packaging that Libby offers. This has the advantage of allowing the user to tweak things to look precisely how they want things to look and the disadvantage of requiring the user to know the details of design in order to get things how they want them.

- Navigation for reading
  - Libby:
    1. Start the app up,
    2. Touch the footer area labeled **Library Shelf**,
    3. Choose which book to read, read.

    To continue reading the last thing you had been reading, it's even simpler:
    1. Start the app up,
    2. Touch the image of that book in the center of the footer,
    3. Read.
  - Overdrive:
    1. Start the app, touch the "**hamburger**" icon (the 3 parallel, horizontal lines),
    2. Choose **Bookshelf**,
    3. Choose the book, read.

    If you had been reading when you last left the app, you will come in at your bookshelf, so you'll only need to choose the book and begin reading.

In general, Libby looks friendlier and allows one-button navigation in a way that Overdrive doesn't but has less flexibility. Additionally, my impression when Libby first came out had been that it had fewer bugs and glitches than the Overdrive app, but that may or may not have been true then, and I have not run into as many problems with Overdrive as I used to.