

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Jessi Castagna

City of Siloam Springs

(479) 524-5136

The Siloam Springs Public Library is online in more ways than one these days.

The library introduced wireless internet, or wi-fi, at the end of January. Now they offer patrons an online card catalog search as well.

"This lets you look things up from anywhere there's an Internet connection," Shelly Govea said. "It's not anything fancy, you can just search the catalog and can call and ask us to hold a book."

To access the library's online card catalog, you can log on to the City of Siloam Springs website at [www.siloamsprings.com](http://www.siloamsprings.com), then click on Departments, then Library, or log on directly at <http://siloamlibrary.net>.

Patrons can search the catalog by key word, author, subject, title, call number or International Standard Book Number, also known as an ISBN. There's a 'Bookbag' feature that holds books that have already been found, in case patrons need to refer back to their list, or for patrons who are looking up multiple books on the same subject.

Govea said quite a few people had expressed a desire for an online card catalog. It keeps people from having to get in their cars and drive to the library, only to find they don't have a particular book.

"We especially got requests from homeschool moms, if they have to pull a bunch of books, they can look them all up from home and see what we have before they get here," she said.

The online card catalog system has been in the works for years, at least since Govea arrived at the library eight years ago.

"There were just a lot of things that had to be in place technologically and we just got to that point," she said.

The feedback on the online system has been positive, Govea said.

"Really it's just to make our patrons' lives easier. It's exciting because we've already had people call and tell us they've found books and ask us to hold them," Govea said.

She said adding the wireless internet and the online card catalog at almost the same time has been a very positive experience for the library.

"The first day up and running with the wireless Internet there were four people sitting in the back using it," Govea said. "I didn't realize how many people walked around with their laptops."

####