Computer Programs

Recognizing and Working with Popular Software Titles

When we use computers, we are really using ***programs*** ("software") to interact with the computer. Through these programs we can do many things with computers.

Hundreds of thousands of computer programs exist, but you only need to know of a few of them to perform most common tasks on computers.

Below are some of the most popular computer software titles. If you would like to learn more about any one of them, books are available within the library system. A librarian can help you find what you need!

Program	What it does (or what you use it for)
Adobe Digital Editions	This is used for downloading and displaying eBooks ("electronic" or "digital" books).
Adobe Photoshop	Edit and crop photos, apply visual effects, as well as lets you draw or paint digitally.
Adobe Flash	A "plug-in" program for Web browsers. Websites use it for games, videos, interactivity.
Adobe Reader	Open, view, and print "PDF" documents. Some eBooks require the Adobe Reader.
Antivirus Software	Scans/removes harmful software. Popular titles include: Avast, AVG, McAfee, Norton.
Excel	Open, view, create or work with spreadsheets, pie charts, and numbers.
Firefox	This is a **"**Web browser," a program that lets you browse the World Wide Web.
GIMP	A free image editor. Comparable to Adobe Photoshop.
Internet Explorer	A "Web browser." Comparable to Firefox.
Linux	An "operating system" – the main program that lets you use a computer and its programs.
Microsoft Office	"Productivity programs." Type letters, make slide shows, work with numbers / information.
Microsoft Publisher	A "desktop publishing" program used for a variety of projects (flyers, newsletters, etc.).
Microsoft Word	This is a "word processor," which you can use to type letters, documents, books, etc.
Microsoft Works	Includes a word processor and a spreadsheet. Like Microsoft Office but much simpler.
Notepad	A simple text editor, which lets you type notes or open/view/print plain text (.txt) files.
OpenOffice	A free set of "productivity programs**."** Comparable to Microsoft Office.
OS/X	An "operating system." Comparable to Linux or Windows.
Outlook Express	An e-mail (electronic message) reader. Receive or send e-mail.
OverDrive Media Console	This is used to access and transfer eAudiobooks, eVideos, and eMusic.
QuickBooks	Organize and work with business or financial information.
QuickTime	A "media player." View videos (music videos, movie trailers, etc.), listen to audio.
PowerPoint	Create multimedia (pictures, video, audio) presentations and slide shows.
RealPlayer	A "media player." Comparable to QuickTime and Windows Media Player.
Safari	A "Web browser." Comparable to Internet Explorer and Firefox.
Thunderbird	A free "e-mail reader." Comparable to Outlook Express.
Windows	An "operating system." Comparable to Linux or OS/X.
Windows Media Player	A "media player." Comparable to QuickTime and RealPlayer.