

September is Library Card Sign-up Month, and the Hastings Memorial Library wants to make sure that everyone in Grant has the smartest card of all—a library card.

A recent poll by the American Library Association shows libraries continued to experience a dramatic increase in library card registration last year. In fact, 68 percent of American adults have a library card.

Now more than ever, people are turning to their libraries for reliable financial information, free computer and Internet access, and, of course, books, movies and more.

“In these tough economic times, everyone is looking for a way to make a dollar stretch a little further,” said Robin Quinn, library director. “The Hastings Memorial Library has books, audio books, videos and DVD’s, magazines, and internet access—all for free. It’s the one card you can pull out of your wallet and not spend any money.”

Adults aren’t the only ones who benefit from using the library. Studies show that children who are read to in the home and who use the library perform better in school and are more likely to continue to use the library as a source of lifetime learning.

Getting a library card is easy. All that is needed for adults is a photo ID and knowledge of their address, telephone number, and email address.

In order for children to get a card, a parent or guardian must be with them when they apply.

There is usually a \$1 processing fee to get a card, but throughout the month of September all cards, including replacement cards for current patrons, will be issued free of charge.

For more information on how to sign up for a library card, visit the Hastings Memorial Library at 505 Central Ave. in Grant, or call 308-352-4894.