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Dan Brown novel piques interest in Freemasons

NEWTON—While you're waiting for Dan Brown's latest thriller *The Lost Symbol*, Catawba County Library System has several books for further reading.

Brown, who became a household word with *The Da Vinci Code*, will release *The Lost Symbol* on Sept. 15. The much-hyped book includes security guards and a 12 a.m. release by booksellers and libraries. The county library already has 40 "holds" for the book.

Even if you're not a Brown fan, chances are you've noticed the broadcast of the "clues" on NBC's Today Show this week and other media attention.

The Lost Symbol promises to be another wildly popular novel. Though the plotline has been closely guarded, it is known that character Robert Langdon will take on the secrets of the freemasons.

With that in mind, you may wish to bone up on your knowledge of that secret society. *Cracking the Freemason's Code* by Robert Cooper offers an insider's guide to the society and its famous members. *Solomon's Builders: Freemasons, Founding Fathers and the Secrets of Washington, DC* by Christopher Hodapp pieces together still-visible clues of the Freemasons as it uncovers their symbols hidden in the designs of Washington's statues, monuments and buildings.

The Hiram Key: Pharoahs, Freemasonry and the Discovery of the Secret Scrolls of Jesus by Christopher Knight explores the notion that Jesus Christ was a Freemason. *The Secret Architecture of our Nation's Capital: The Masons and the Building of Washington, DC* by David Ovason explores the influence of Masonic ideals and symbolism, revealing more than 30 zodiacs incorporated into the design and construction of the capital.

While you're waiting to purchase or borrow a copy of *The Lost Symbol*, you may wish to catch up on the exploits of Robert Langdon in Brown's earlier books. The county library system

has all of them within the collection: *Angels & Demons*, *The Da Vinci Code*, *Deception Point* and *Digital Fortress*.

Check availability at any location of Catawba County Library System or go on-line at <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/library/>.

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