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For Immediate Release:

LIBRARY COLUMN

Let library prepare you for Downton's Season 5

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**By Tammy Wilson
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Downtown Abbey fans will ring in 2015 on Sunday, Jan. 4 when Season Five of the British manor series premieres on PBS television. The program, which has garnered its share of Emmys and Golden Globes, will resume with a stellar cast with stunning sets and costumes and enough mystery to keep fans glued to the set.

While you're waiting for that new series to begin, you may want to refresh your memory or introduce yourself if you're new to the series.

Catawba County Library has the DVDs for Seasons 1-4 on DVD or on streaming via Hoopla. With Hoopla there's no waiting or late fees. You can access this service on the library website, www.catawbacountync.gov/library

Some view-alike DVDs you may wish to consider are "Manor House" (a 2003 PBS series) and "Howard's End" the 1991 film on DVD (and the book by E. M. Forster).

The library's shelves contain some outstanding Downton-esque print materials as well. Consider *Behind the Scenes at Downton Abbey* by Emma Rowley, *The World of Downton Abbey* by Jessica Fellowes, *Real Life Downton Abbey* by Jacky Hyams, exploring how life was lived in stately homes of the 1910s.

Other spinoffs are *Below Stairs* by Margaret Powell, the kitchen maid's memoir that inspired "Upstairs, Downstairs" and "Downton Abbey." Edwardian aficionados will like *Habits of the House* by Fay Weldon as well as *Real Life Downton Abbey: How Life was Really Lived in Stately Homes a Century Ago* by Jacky Hyams. Both

make excellent fodder for the imagination. And while you're on the topic, pick up a copy of *Lady Catherine, the Earl and the Real Downton Abbey* by Fiona Carnarvon.

Finally there's *While We Were Watching Downton Abbey*, a 2013 novel by Wendy Wax—a good read for Southerners who gather to watch the addictive TV series—people like you perhaps!

Enjoy.

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About: *The Catawba County Library System, headquartered in Newton, NC, serves the citizens of Catawba County with seven branches throughout the county and is a year-round, integral provider of early literacy and lifelong learning. In addition to traditional services, the system provides a full complement of computer and digital services, classes and support to bridge the digital divide, empower job seekers, and enhance community quality of life and economic health.*