

Making Space for Young Adults in Public Libraries [name removed] Public Library

Staff Video

Staff: Welcome to the library. We're on the first floor, ...and in the southwest corner of the first floor is a very special space called [name removed].

This is a space for middle and high school students. It's separated with the glass panels from the children's department, and the tables and study areas and then from the wall, it's separated from the library's new materials.

You can see that we have some special neon lighting. We have 20 computers for students to use. We have some jellybean chairs for students to sit in and read, and we'll show you some of the collections.

As you first enter the room, the first collection that you come to are the teen graphic [58.8] novels. The manga is here on our left, and it's the most popular collection as far as number of volumes to number of people reading them, especially in the library. We have some of the American superhero graphic novels. To our right, we ran out of shelving units, and so these are shelved at the end of the teen hardback fiction.

Here's moving towards the back of the room. You can see the teen hardback fiction. We've got some display units that have room for end cap face-out shelving, which is nice. This is the teen fiction collection, shelved in alphabetical order by the author's last [2:00] name, and one... one row is taken up with our paperback collection.

We've got audio books, nonfiction and new fiction, shelved in this row in the middle of the room. The nonfiction is a small browsing collection.

And there are two units here of things that we've just recently received.

The rest of the computer stations are on this half of the room, and along the back wall, you'll see the magazine collection and some more of our most popular graphic novels.

[2:56] The room is used by students, of course. In the summertime, most of the time we're dealing with students who are reading, who are soaking up the air conditioning, who are doing assigned summer reading. That changes drastically during the school year. We are right across the street from a middle school, and so during the school year, when school is in session, we get a huge influx of students from the hours 3:00 to 6:00.

We're in the middle of our teen summer reading, and so we have a banner here that "Eat, sleep, read" is our theme this year. We've also got a cart with books for the students in high school who've got assigned reading, and here's easy access to those books. We've got a printer station, a catalog.

Some little prizes for the teen summer reading are in the glass display case. We've got a projector... and we've got a Wii, so Wii and movies, the computer, what's on the screen can be shown, and we've got a built-in screen that comes [4:18]down from the ceiling.

We've got a service desk that's staffed most of the time the library's open. In the summertime, we don't staff it till 11:00, and then we don't staff it until 2:30 during the school year.

What we like about the space is that we have our own space, just for students. If we could change something, we would have more space, maybe double the space, and we would set up some stations where students can work together, have some tables where they can do their homework, have some computer stations where they could work together. We do enjoy the space; it just gets a little bit crowded during the school year.

Thank you.

[End of staff video]

Youth Video

YA: When I come to the library, the first place I go is the teen space, and this is a little look at it here. It's a really nice place. There's my favorite right there, the couches.

I usually come in to the library, go straight to the teen space, and I pick out a book and I just go over to those couches right over there and I read, which is actually quite a selection. Many people actually go over there and do that.

It's a very comfortable spot if you really try to sit down in those. I know kids enjoy those quite a bit, but the library has a very good selection of literature and I'm always finding really good new books, or even books that I haven't heard about that are a little bit older, that I like to read.

[1:00] We also have magazines and we have comic books at the end over here, and I know many people really like to be interested in the comic books, especially like the superhero comic books, which I think are pretty interesting, but not fully my taste.

And then we have the computer area, where the middle school... We have a middle school, Edison, right across the street, so after school, the kids come in. They get on the computer and they just play the computer until their mom and dad can come pick [1:58] them up. But that's not all they do. They get off the computer and they read. And, you know, it's just a really nice place to come hang out.

You can't really talk with your friends because it's supposed to be quiet in here, but there's where the librarian sits keeping everything under control. They usually do a pretty good job. They do a good job of that.

This is another row of computers that we have.

But if other kids were coming into the teen space, I definitely recommend coming to these chairs. They're like little... they're... I don't how you would put it. They're like fluffy, and they're almost like super-soft type deals.

[2:59] We have a couple more comics over here.

But I mean the teen space is not only teens come in here, but quite a few really young adults that are like in their 20's through... that are just in their 20's. They come in here and they still find the literature that they really like. So this is based for everybody in really the middle age. It's a really nice place to come and just hang out with your friends.

And the lighting's pretty cool, too. It's all different colors. We got the reds, the greens, the purples, and then we even got that exit sign to light a whole place up.

Now, I think this library has a really cool teen space. There's really nothing I would change about it. One thing that they do in the summer is the summer reading program, [4:01] and those are some of the prizes that you can get from doing that, which is pretty fun. I usually get one of those every summer. I read about, I don't know, 30 hours in a couple weeks.

So, yeah, this is our library, and it's a pretty cool place, lot of people come in here and hang out.

[End of Youth Video]