

## **Youth Spaces in Public Libraries**

### **[name removed] Public Library**

#### **Staff Video**

This is [name removed] at the [name removed] Public Library. This replaced a much smaller space in our old building. We have been in this building since 2007. The former library's young adult section was considerably smaller than this and was also in the children's department, so it saw very little use there. We have decorated this in a café style, providing an area that is fun for the patrons to come here after school.

So this is the space that has been in use now for, as I say, about five years. Kind of is an art piece. We have installed special lighting in here that is changing, for no other reason than that it's kind of fun and funky. Our entire facility has free Wi-Fi. Young adult patrons that don't have their own laptops or tablets are free to use the desktop workstations. We have about 40 of them on this floor. This computer is just a catalog, although it does have a number of very useful databases that they access from here, including a teen health database, which is very useful.

The space that we're about to go into is the For Teen area that was just created this year.

The windows on the outside were painted free of charge by a local artist. The paintings on the wall were created by another local artist who also happens to be the library director's son-in-law. This room, too, has been furnished and decorated in a café style, providing the young adult magazines. We also have the library's collection of graphic novels, some board games, back issues of the magazines. There are three laptop computers in here that are hardwired to our network, so they're not dependent on the Wi-Fi. We have reserved these laptops and this space for patrons who are under 18. One of the things that we have installed in here, we have a Wii system permanently secured to a shelf here. Wii systems were purchased a number of years back through a Wal-Mart grant. The Wii system has several preloaded discs or games. There are some discs that can be checked out. For the users to use this, they go to our main checkout desk and check out the controllers. There are instructions on how the Wii system operates, and then it's set up with an overhead flat screen, and we have a pair of gaming chairs that users can use. This room was repurposed from a previous setup for vision and hearing impaired. We found that many of those users were not coming to the library to use the space because several of the resources that we had in here are readily available for home computers. We are still, like I say, just beginning the use of this room, and we anticipate that we will be operating with programs that are specifically designed for this space.

I should mention that in addition to the funding that we received from Wal-Mart for the game system, this room was also funded in part by a grant from the Fred Meyer Corporation and one from our Friends of the Library.

[End of Staff Video]

## Youth Video

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the [name removed] Library. This is one of our two youth adult teen spaces. As you can see, we try to make it as comfortable as we can for the teens that visit this area. I have been a student representative on the City of [name removed] Library Board for the past two years, and I've been involved in many of the suggestions of what goes into this space. This is one of our two teen spaces.

Since I have been a representative, these have been added. They're changing light boards, one of our cool features to make it more of a hip place for teens to hang out. We have many, many, many different books, from knitting . . . anything that a teen could possibly [laughs] want to read about. We have cool hangout areas. This is a couple of our sitting spots to do homework or whatever you please. This is a place not only for homework but also a safe place for teens to relax and enjoy themselves when they're not in school and they're not at home. This is one of our catalogue areas for what is in the teen room.

Over here we have benches. I can't go over there right now because there are people and I can't show them to you, but it's kind of a lounge area with tables and chairs, mainly for doing homework. We have more books over here. And since I started representing the library as a student, we have made this new room. It used to be the audio visual room for the handicapped, but we have turned it into a really cool teen space. We have art that's been donated on the walls. We also set up three different computers for teens to research and study with, which I think is very, very handy. Being a student, I like to have somewhere to go to focus that isn't at home, so this is another resource that we offer teens. We also have pretty cool chairs here that are new, along with the room, to encourage reading comfortably. We also have other things in here that the other teen space doesn't offer. We have all of our magazines located in here. This is a new change. We also have all of our animated graphic books located in here now, which is a big change, and it's made a lot more space in the other teen room. We also have a TV here hooked up to a Wii with remotes that kids can rent out. Have all sorts of different games. Whatever strikes their fancy, I'm sure we've got it covered. We also have board games here. If they want to engage in some sort of a game with a peer, really, we have whatever you would ever want in a teen space.

We have wonderful views. Something I would like to see in these libraries would maybe be some couches, maybe along this wall, to really hang out and relax, 'cause I know that when I like to read, I like to be able to be as comfortable as I can.

I think we'll go back into the other room now and see if we can find some other things that are important. [Walking]

[End of Youth Video]