

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

Staff Video

Welcome to the [name removed] Library teen area. As you can see right here, it actually is a completely enclosed space for the teenagers, so let's head on in. When we enter, you're gonna be... we have a bank of computers. There's about six of them and you could pretty much say the entire day they are completely filled up.

Off to my immediate right is where we keep our, adult sort of, teenager rather, Manga graphic novel anime section. It's pretty voluminous and it does add up. We actually have something in our system called a floating collection where we have 12 different branches. But if stuff happens to be returned to us, it stays here, so being one of the newer branches, we do sort of collect a lot of stuff. So there's plenty of stuff, material for graphic novel stuff in here.

If we keep going along the right-hand side, this is where we keep our teen magazines and CD collection. Turn off we have a nice sort of giant, open window, a lot of natural light coming in. It looks out onto the street. That's sort of a cool thing, and then we also, one of our things coming into this area, is we had new furniture, sort of this retro 50s style diner sort of bucket seats. It's one of those things where it actually looks pretty cool. I'll be honest, though, sometimes they're not as feasible as they look. It's one of those things where actually we've found over time that the backings actually get a little loose, and they're not nearly as comfortable as they are, so if you're looking for one of the things that's something that's maybe not the best thing about this room, it would probably be these sort of bucket seats. Again, they look cool, the booths are cool, but it's just after a while, normal wear and tear, we've been over for about two years. They're not as comfortable because the backs are sort of giving out.

If we come over here, again we have additional seating. These are going to be sort of filled up pretty much all day after school. I'll be honest, what happens is, for the most of the day, this actually, this area serves as sort of a quiet study room. Again, you see it's enclosed so it serves as a study room, but then when school gets out between like 3:30 until about 8:00 o'clock, it's jumping with teenagers. And I'll be honest, about half of them are doing homework and the other half is just sort of... it's a hangout place. This place sort of, the library serves as a hangout place, so, this place gets sort of inundated with teenagers after school.

Alright, we'll head over here now. We also have our entire sort of teen fiction area going to be right along this bank of rows and, actually, if we go around onto the other side, will be teen fiction. In our back left-hand corner, we have a designated teen classics area. And these are going to be stuff more like required reading for the high schoolers, you know, like the *Fahrenheit 451*, *The Great Gatsby*, Steinbeck, stuff like that. So, that's where this collection is going to be.

Now with regards to like sort of the things we really like about this area is we have these things called slat wall. And this stuff is actually really good. It's this little grooved stuff right in here. It allows you to be flexible and move signage up and down. It's a really nice feature. It actually gives us a lot of play.

The one thing that we would like with this room is probably more space to put displays. There's very little display space. We have this little corner right here which will be a little display. You can throw up maybe ten books and then over in this left-hand corner it's another display area, but we've found that there's not enough wall space for us to do book displays and stuff.

Another facet is I believe it sounded cool but the sort of totally teen enclosed area, we've found that it really hasn't worked out that well. It would seem like it would be a noise deterrent, and to an extent it does, but it also sort of seems to give the teenagers a sense of security or thing where they think they can be louder than they probably normally would. We've found that we leave the door open now during its entirety and it does tend to quell the noise. Like I said, the enclosed area seemed like it would have been good for staff, but it's actually we've found it caused more problems than probably we would have thought.

The other things we like are it is nice having a designated space for them. I think they do seem to enjoy it. We actually, I actually enjoy the furniture a lot. It's not stale or static or anything like that. It's pretty lively and it's fairly unique. We also have these great little features on our tables, because we do have plenty of kids that come in with laptops, so if you just pop that open, they have built-in charging devices and stuff like that, so that's another aspect we like with our teen room is the furniture.

And again, if they're going to recommend stuff for us, more wall space to put displays up and just actually more space. It sounds stupid but I think everybody thought this teen area would be large enough, but it has proven to be opposite. This place, we get overrun with kids and they're actually spilling out, so if I were to recommend something that would improve this area, it would be much larger spaces and then maybe get rid of the diner seats which, in theory, look cool, but they're just not feasible, and then more wall space.

I hope you enjoyed your tour. We're lucky to be in here. Here's just a little quick pan. Thank you very much.

[End of Staff Video]

Youth Video

Hello. This is the [name removed] Library teen area. Here's a tour of the area. Over here we have the graphic novels, very, very, very popular among the young people. Over here are the magazines and the CDs. With the CDs, there's a wide range of genres. It ranges from rock to hip-hop to country and just all the stuff young people like to listen to.

Over here there is a comfortable seating area. The lighting in here is very, very nice. There are very, very high windows. It takes up the whole wall as you can see. And it just provides a great source of lighting and adds a vibe of energy and positivity to the room. I really like it.

Over here we have the collection of novels, teen fiction and classics. Here's more seating area where people study, socialize, and just overall are having a good time over here. Here are the computers for the library, complete with internet, Microsoft Word, and all that.

What I really like about the area is it's a good place to socialize, to study, and to overall just have a good time. It's very comfortable in here. What I don't like is that most of the novels in the teen area are dramas and romance novels and, as a guy, stuff that does not appeal to me. I believe it could use more action, more thriller, and more mystery-themed novels.

These couches, they may look cool but they're slightly uncomfortable. The part you sit on has a slight dip and it just makes it hard to concentrate and to work. Usually when people are in here they're studying, they're socializing, they're having fun, and they're just having a good time in here. It's a very, very comfortable area. When I'm usually in here I'm usually goofing off with my friends studying or just hanging out.

The downside to this room is that it gets really, really noisy being that teens are reckless and energetic like they are. Several times in the past I remember the librarians have had to come in here and tell us to quiet down, and the security guards have scolded us a few times in the past. Sometimes it can get really chaotic in here but overall it's a really comfortable room. I like to study here. I like to socialize with my friends here. It's just the place to be to study. And that's about it. Thank you for watching.

[End of Youth Video]

[End of Session]