

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

Staff Video

This is the teen room at the [name removed] branch of the [name removed] Library in [name removed], [name removed]. I am the teen librarian. I'm just showing the shelving here in the room. As you can see, the room is very full of windows, which we like. It gives lots of natural light and that's one thing I really like about the room. I'll just kind of slowly walk around the room here.

We have a display of graphic novels in the corner here and then our teen magazine display is over this way. I'll pan over and give a full effect of the room here. We just have two larger shelving units for our teen fiction collection, and that would be them there. We have some seating in the back here and then we have some tables and chairs just around the corner.

Some things that I like about this room are I really like the natural sunlight, and I think that it is a good space for teens. However, it's a fairly new room. This was built in 2007 and some of the things I would change would be that although the shelving is cool looking, it doesn't work very well for library shelving. These are actually retail shelves used for retail things and books tend to fall off of the end. Also, they're kind of big and bulky, and we could fit a lot more in the room if we were able to have regular library shelving instead of these big bulky retail shelves.

Pan over to the furniture here. The furniture in this room, as you can see, even though we've only been open for not quite five years has taken quite a beating. We have these little floor chairs which are very worn out already, so we're actually in the process of ordering new furniture. And then this one over in the corner has a big hole in it, so I think next time we're going to try and go for more durable furniture.

It's the middle of the morning right now so we don't have any teens in the room. Another issue we have with the room that I would change is, I'll pan this way and show that we have no door on the room. It's wide open, and so it gets pretty loud in here during the afternoon hours when it fills up with teens.

We do have a nice study space over in the corner here with a table and regular chairs, and that seems to work pretty well. A lot of teens bring their laptops and whatnot in and use that for meetings or just sitting around and reading, which is nice that we have a spot for them. However, teens do like to talk as is expected and the sound, because of the lack of the door, the sound kind of carries out into the rest of the library. So often we have to come in here and ask them to take the volume down, which is kind of not fair because this is the room for them and they should be able to socialize in here.

Other than that, I'm pretty happy. This is actually the first time we've ever had a designated room for teens at the [name removed] Public Library. So it's kind of nice that we get the opportunity to give them their own room instead of being linked in with the children's which is what it was previously. Other than that, that is my video of the teen room at the [name removed] Public Library. Thanks.

[End of Staff Video]

Youth Video

This is the teen room. It's very much filled with books and magazines, all things that teens our age would really like. Over here we have the books for A through DO. There's a lot of fiction which is one of the things that we all really, really like. The only thing about the bookshelves that I wish we could change is I wish they were higher because then we could have more books in here.

Over here we have a sitting room kind of thing set up so that you can sit in here and read books as long as you want. Well, until the library closes at least. And then as we turn you see windows and grassy plains, which is a nice view when you're reading.

Over here we have two tables pushed together. It could be a desk and there are four chairs so you can sit there and do homework, read, or whatever you really need to do. And then we have two bookshelves for actual books. We have the left and the right, both filled with amazing books. I've read quite a lot of them.

As we move over we have a sitting stool and another kind of side table. There are ledges along the windows so that you could sit there if you really wanted to and once again, there is some grass out there. Over here we have the magazine cart and it's very nice because if you want to see magazines that you want to read but you can't get them if you're home, they have them all labeled. So if you wanted to read J14, you would just go down and get the J14 section.

When you walk in, if you went straight to the right, you would see the Magna section. We've got quite a few of them. Once again, the only complaint I have is that it's not high enough that you can have a lot of them. The shelves aren't full but the bigger the shelves, the higher they go, the more Magna novels we can have. It's got a nice lighting system so even if you're kind of just sitting in here and it's night, you can still read really well.

I definitely do have no complaints with the choices of books. They've got your *Twilight*, your *Harry Potter* books that people really have been liking to read, and then they've got new ones that you probably wouldn't have heard of on the Alps [3:50]. Because for me personally, I'm a big fan of the fiction and if I really, really want to go find a fiction book, I just tell my mom it's time to go to the library, because I know that they'll always have one that I can get.

Over here we have your *Night World* series, your *Vampire Diaries*, your *Gossip Girl*. Different books, but they're all very interesting and they all bring out different sides of life. As you can see, this space isn't very big, but it works for the library's purposes. If we could, I would like to have it bigger because then you could have more books.

[End of Youth Video]

[End of Session]