

Making Space for Young Adults in Public Libraries

Hinsdale Public Library

Staff Video

Narrator: Hello, and welcome to the [name removed] at [name removed] Public Library. I am the young adult librarian, and I will be taking you through a little tour of our space.

So this is... this is the entrance to our library here, and as you come in, right next to the circulation desk is the [name removed]. We have a small book display that is outside of the lounge. Our current display is for Banned Books Week, so these poor little books are in jail, but it's a pretty cool looking little display. So this changes regularly, and it is for displays where we have smaller numbers of titles available. I'll show you our other display space when we get inside the lounge.

[1:03] This, outside of the lounge, is our new young adult fiction display. Basically anything that has come out or been ordered in the last, you know, three to five months, is on display out here. It all depends on how many books we've been ordering, and we try to put as many face-out titles as possible. But it just highlights those great new books in our collection. At the bottom of the new book display shelves is our new graphic novels and manga, so those get highlighted as well.

We also have some Playaways highlighted, the newer Playaways that are very popular with our middle-schoolers. And tangentially related is this is our classics spinner. A lot of [2:00] these books are books that are supporting the high school curriculum, so we like to highlight those, but it's also a really great opportunity for our other patrons that come in and want to read the classics to come in and do that, and we used a bunch of Top 100 Books of All Time and those kind of lists to create that.

This is our graphic novel space directly outside of the [name removed]. It's a little tall for our taste right now. We would love to have another set of lower shelves so people can reach the tops without a stepstool, but this collection has been growing by leaps and bounds and we just couldn't keep it contained in the regular [name removed] any more, so it moved out here. We also have a J and an adult graphic novel space, so this is just for the teens.

Coming into the lounge, you see we have an OPAC right there, and right as you come in here, this is the service desk. It's staffed pretty much 3:00-5:00 or 3:00-6:00 [3:04] Monday through Thursday. Something that we would really love to change about this is currently when you walk in, the staff member's back is to you, which of course is not optimal in terms of customer service; so we would really love to turn this desk around and make a smiling face the first thing you see when you come in. This cart is just for books that people have used while in the library, that need to be returned.

On the other side of the new fiction shelves are where we keep our periodicals. Of course, periodicals are, you know, kind of depleting a lot, so we haven't... we're having more

and more space there, so we decided to put new nonfiction out there, as well, and highlight that as well as some of our book lists. These book lists are something we do [4:00] called “reading rants” where twice a year, we go to the middle school and do a presentation on about 30 new books that have come into the library.

Over here, you’ll see we have a collection of teen-specific Xbox and Wii games. We have some in the juvenile collection as well, but these are the teen collection’s.

This display space here is, again, one that changes monthly. Currently it’s called “Dramarama,” so it’s about the theater and drama and movies and that sort of thing. But it changes monthly, and the corresponding book list is featured on our website. We’re currently gearing up for Banned Book Week, as you can see, so we have some lovely displays there as well as our four teen-specific computers. They have internet access and also some preloaded games without internet if you need to.

This is our pre-shelving right now, not ideal, but it is a place where we can find books [4:59] easily. We have a good collection of audio books here. This is a small study space, and you might have seen these comfy swirly chairs here that are for relaxing. We would love to have more space for teens to hang out, but again, that’s something that we would... we hope to have in the future.

This is our fiction collection. We do some bookends here with just books of interest. Our collection is one that has... is weeded pretty frequently because we don’t have a lot of time, so anything that hasn’t gone out in the last two to three years is donated and makes room for more new materials. Something neat that we do is we put series labels on all of our books that are series, to make it easier for the patron to find which book in the series [6:00] they’re looking for; and we do color-coding, so if the author has a second series, they can tell the difference; and then our pages can tell the difference, as well.

We have a very small nonfiction collection. It’s browsing collection, mostly books of interest, not necessarily for studying or anything like that, and we have a large collection of CD’s. Surprisingly, they do still go out a *lot*, so it is something we are continuing to collect.

And that is the lovely [name removed] here at the [name removed] Public Library. We hope you enjoyed you the tour, and we thank you so much for choosing us to be a part of your experience!

[End of Staff Video]

Youth Video

Narrator: I'm a teen, and I use the [name removed] Public Library. Right now this is where they put all the new books. They're by... they're alphabetized by the author's last name, and they have a sticker that says the month that they came in, so if you know a new book that came out that you'd really like, it's here on the outside of the [name removed] and it is right there for you to get.

Here are the classics, so... I love reading Jane Anniston [sic], so I... you know, my *Pride and Prejudice* is right here and all my other favorites, so that's where it... it's all alphabetized, as well. Here are the graphic novels. I'm a huge Spiderman fan, so that's, again, alphabetized, and you can find all your favorite heroes.

[1:01] So now, going into the [name removed], here are... when you first walk in, here on the side is magazines and some other just fun books to read. There's also like little couches for everyone to sit on, so if you want to read and sit down, you may.

Right here is a themed shelf. So right now it's drama, so if, you know, you want a book about drama, it's right now a theme. Also, they usually do it for reading rants for school, so if you have to read a book for school, usually it'll be up here for summer reading.

Here are the computers. They... they're used... you can go on the internet, so if you want to look up the homework or look up a video on YouTube, you may. You just have to sign in, so that's always very nice, to not have to go home to use your computer.

[2:06] And here's like a study table. I use this when I study with my friend. We can study here and quiz each other.

Here are the audio books, so if you're going on a car ride and you're driving, or if you... your parents are driving and you want a book, they're here, and here is the actual books. They are, starting here, alphabetized by last name.

I really like this space. The shelving is really nice here. It's kind of quiet. It's very peaceful. You can really find your book. It's not too open; it's not too closed. It's just right. It's very modern. And they're all really nice books. You can all see them, and [2:59] they're all great. And one of my favorite series is the Harry Potter series, which they only have two books right now on the shelf, but... so I obviously know exactly where to find them, but they're right here. And then going in again, so we obviously have a lot of teen novels in the library for you to come check out.

Here, right here in these shelves are the nonfiction. Usually they're more teen nonfictions. They're more for teenagers. There's... you know, there's a Lady Gaga one right there, and there's one about polio, so they're really all very nice and again, alphabetic... alphabetized.

[3:57] Right here in this little corner is where the music is, so any artist that was really up-and-coming right now or really in is definitely here, and then, there again, they have the letter, so if you're looking for Beyoncé, you'd look here in the "B." And so these are all the different music.

I really like going to the library because there are a lot of programs for me to do. There's iCraft, which right now we are going to make string dolls, I assume, but this is, you know, something really fun and you can come and make crafts with your friends. And then we're going to make cake pops, and they always have suggestions. Here's a classic [4:59] poster, and then if you're a guy, sometimes guys don't really like to read, but there's a guy read.

I really like coming to the library because I love studying here. I really like just like a spacious place where anyone can really come and it's really quiet and it's nice, and that is why I come to the [name removed] Public Library.

[End of Youth Video]