

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

**Staff Video**

Narrator 1: Hey, hello and welcome to our teen room. Yeah. We're standing at the door now from children's.

Narrator 2: We're going to walk in and show you around, talk about some of the things that we like, and some of the things we wish we could change.

N1: Right, so here we go. Oh wait, I have to leave 'cause I've got a child.

N2: Okay, so I'm showing you our two computers and some of our lovely tables.

N1: I'm back. [laughs]

N2: Okay, I just showed them the computers and the tables, and here is some of our shelving.

N1: Oh, awesome. Okay.

N1: You maybe can tell that the room is much more recent and the shelving is rather old. It was repurposed from the old library. Some of it fits perfectly and some of it doesn't, but we like it, right?

N2: We do. Overall we definitely like it. One thing we wish that we had is some more display shelving. This piece right here that I'm showing you is sort of second-hand. It doesn't really go with the rest of the shelving, so we wish we could have something that went a little better with the room. Our non-fiction collection is actually housed upstairs.

N1: Right.

N1: Right, which is where the adult non-fiction is, and in a way that's great because teens then can browse and they might discover some adult books that they would really like for whatever research they happen to be doing. But we have a teeny, tiny, little section. Shall we go over there?

N2: Sure.

N1: Yeah, we're walking through the room now and you can see some of our lovely furniture. This is an old table which we had painted to match and the other tables are actually new.

N2: Here's one. This is our café-style table with our lovely chairs. [laughs]

N1: Here's one.

N1: Right.

N1: Yes, they are, and teens do really like our furniture here. They use it a lot.

N2: And here's our third table, again with some bright yellow chairs.

N1: Right, which are practically indestructible. You can lean back on them, you can do practically anything. They're really nice. As I was saying before, though, we're heading over towards the...

N2: Our college collection, which is our very small non-fiction section in the teen room, which actually does get used a lot.

N1: Yes. And we...It would be nice I think if some of our shelving, as my colleague was saying, were display shelving. We could have new non-fiction down here. As it is, if something is really interesting, we tend to put it at the end of the children's desk because, as we said before, the children's room adjoins the teen room, although this is a separate space.

N2: Yes.

N2: Okay, so something else that we'd like to talk about is the lighting in here.

N1: Yeah, do we want to quick flash up to that?

N2: Yes.

N1: Flash would be the word. [laughs]

N2: We are panning up.

N1: We've got that track lighting, which we can't have all of them on because it looks like an interrogation room in here.

N2: Yes.

N2: And it gets very, very warm in here with all of them on, so we have about half of them on right now, and of those half that are turned on, some are pointed at the books and some are pointed towards the middle of the room.

N1: Right, and that does make it very workable. Especially at night because the lighting is good in here, but it's not particularly harmonious as far as the building itself goes.

N2: Right, it's the one room where the lighting does not match the rest of the building.

N1: Right and I haven't had anybody say 'oh, what lovely lighting you have in here,' which would be nice, and... [laughs]

N2: Although we do have these very nice windows. Oh, I think I showed your face by accident.

N1: Oh no, no, we'll have to cut that out. Yes, the windows are beautiful but again, if we look out this window which would offer a lovely view out onto the rest of the town and the little river that's out there and everything, but we've got this hot box sitting right in front of the window and why they did that, I have no earthly clue, but it would be great if it were not there.

N2: And then last thing that we'd like to change or that we don't really have- I'm going to pan up over the audio books and paperbacks and you'll see what we're talking about-is that we don't really have signage in here. We had someone make these up for us. They're just paper signs and we'd love to have some actual fun, funky, usable signage.

N1: Yes and my colleague is showing you now the media shelving and the other thing that would be wonderful is... [Recording cuts off in mid-sentence].

[End of Staff Video]

## Youth Video

This is the teen room.

As you move inside, you mostly see books that are interspersed, fantasy, fiction and sci-fi. Everything is arranged alphabetically by author. Here are a couple of featured bookshelves that really just exist to try and draw kids to certain books. Over here are the graphic novels which get a lot of circulation. They come from all over the world, from tons of different authors, and they're very popular amongst the patrons of the teen room.

Here is a bulletin board where we post new information about programs going on in around the library and the community, and also where people display new or audio books. There is a Mac that sits over here. It doesn't get too much use, but it does work for gaming purposes a lot of the time.

Over here is the reference section, which I think is one of the biggest assets of the library, especially the teen room, because it provides a lot of test ref materials that are available for anyone to check out and use. I do think that it's underutilized, unfortunately. A lot of kids either don't know it's here or don't really feel comfortable coming in to use this stuff, but it is really helpful and great that we have it.

Over here are the paperback books and also a ton of the audiobooks. Everything is displayed according to author as usual, and it's pretty easy to find if you know what you're looking for. The room also has several tables, a few computers, and spaces for tutoring programs that usually go on in the weekends. It's a great place for study, but a lot of teenagers don't necessarily know that it's here and don't often use it. Oftentimes, adults monopolize the space, unfortunately, which becomes sort of a problem for teenagers because they don't want to use it when adults are already using the tables.

This is a space where we display newer books. It's sort of off to the side and in the corner, so it's not really a visible thing when you walk into the room, unfortunately, and some people do overlook it because of that reason. As we move around here, it's again more of the fantasy, fiction, and sci-fi books. This is just the latter half of the display of them.

The lighting fixtures in the teen room are not necessarily the best. Some of them are very, very bright unfortunately. Luckily, there's a lot of natural light coming in, so instead of just relying on putting on those bright lights, we can leave the windows open and during the daytime it's a well-lit and welcoming room.

For the most part, the teen room is a great place to hang out that is often underutilized. The children's room does not really have any seating, so when younger kids need to do some sort of work, it often happens in here. But again, adults often monopolize the space and that becomes an issue for encouraging young teenagers to use the space.

[End of Youth Video]

[End of Session]