

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

Staff Video 1

This is the [name removed] in [name removed], [name removed], at the [name removed] Library. Pretty nice space. It goes along back to a nice room with lit windows. One of the number one things the teens say they like are our comfy chairs and I agree. Here's a couple and then there's the footrest. Those are comfy, too. They're very soft. This is our little area with the coffee table and there's a couch.

This is our display. It's the current display. It's advertising the Teen Book Festival. The teen volunteers help pick the books from the shelves. It's all of the authors that will be there. It's right in this area. We have books all along the edge here. It starts with new books and then graphic novels and then graphic novel series, and up top we have video games, a bunch of Manga series, and then short stories. We keep homework supplies in case teens need it.

In the front area is where we keep the two, touchscreen computers right there. You can see. There are some teens in there so I am trying not to get them. Right next to that there's the MP3 and CDs, books on tape, books on CD, and books on MP3.

Here's our study carrels which go up the stairs and you kind of look over the area. Teens find that fun. They like to sit up there and work together. We have two tables in that area over there near the lit up area. It's a very nice front area. It's front of the building. And this is on the second floor of this building.

Here are our paperback racks in front of our hardcovers. I'll show we have a lot of book lists, so teens and parents can check out genres. There are our rave reviews that all the teen librarians in the [name removed] County here pick the books of the year.

Now what happens sometimes, see how that book is on top? We don't have that much room for our hardcovers, so we do have to weed a few times a year or as we go in a way, a couple of times a year actually, just to make room.

The ceiling is very open. I don't know if you can see, but those lights flicker and kind of change up there. Lots of room. We've got those neat windows. That leads to there's the stairway down there. It's all lit up.

This is our Teen Place news area showing what's come up. It's right at the beginning of the room. There's the [name removed] sign, and that's our [name removed]. That's it from the front.

One thing I wanted to say is that I did a teen survey with my teen volunteers (they come at the first Thursday of every month) and asked them what they liked about it. I also

asked them to try to come in and help me with the video, but they're all so busy. They will be here again at the first of the month but I have to have this in before that, so some of the... Here's the survey that we gave them with questions about it. Most of them said that it's a comfortable place, as you can see, with the comfy chairs. Most of them said they would do nothing different. Also they said they would get more books, which we'll have to make room for I guess. They want movies up here. We keep all the movies downstairs. Some things that they said they would change. One wanted us to paint the bricks, which we would never do; it goes with our façade.

But really most teens like it. They come here for socializing and studying. They definitely do use this for studying. Summer reading's coming up so that will be another plus. Thank you for visiting our [name removed].

[End of Staff Video 1]

Staff Video 2

Here we are again. This is the young adult librarian. I'm taping the video for the kids because I had them fill out a survey when I first found out about this and they answered questions about things they like, what would they like to see added, what would they take away, and what do they do in this area? So I'm going to give you some of their answers.

The first one, what do you like about the Teen Place, generally was "there's lots of places to sit with couches." Yes, those are very popular. They like the new book section right here at the front. That's another answer. Let me see here. Someone else says well, "the sofas" again. They "like the displays," which we have the display case back there. "Nice seats, neat and organized. There's lots of places to sit." Definitely another answer.

What would they like to see added to this place? They say "a way to look up books" or "more variety." Well, the way to look up is the catalog, and they could use the computers back there and get into our catalog that way, but we do have two catalog computers near the reference desk out this way. That way. They could do that, but it would be easier if one was just right here, because they'd have to sign into the computer to use it.

Someone said "non-fiction to be added." We keep the non-fiction interfiled with the adult non-fiction with YA stickers, but we do keep new non-fiction here, right there at the bottom of our new bookshelf. So there's that.

A lot said "no answer" or "more books in Manga." Of course, we need more room to get more and more, but we'll see what we can do. Someone else also said "add movies." We keep the movies downstairs with the other movies so that probably won't change.

"Bigger desk space with the computers because the computer takes up most of the desk." I don't know if you can tell, but yeah. So who knows? We could maybe get a new console and change it.

What a lot said they would get rid of, I have a bunch of "nothing's." I really like the one answer from one of the guys. He said "get rid of the exposed brick. Paint it," but I don't think we're going to do that because it goes with the building. The outside is all brick like that, so that was a funny answer I thought [laughs].

Let's see. Another answer. I had a lot of "nothing's" and no answers. "Older softcover books" someone said. Well, we keep a lot of classics there, so we can't really get rid of most of those. There are a lot for summer reading.

What they do here, they generally "come in and volunteer, study, or read." Those are the number one answers for what they do. "Sit and read, check out books, volunteer, look for books." One person said "I don't come very often," but he came to volunteer, so that's how he filled out the survey.

That was what the teens liked. I hope this all makes sense. I wish I could have had one of them here to do this video, but I had to ask them somehow and get some answers, so I got some answers for you. Thank you for coming to the [name removed] at [name removed] Library.

[End of Staff Video 2]

Staff Video 3

Hello. This is our teen space. There is the sign. It's on the second floor of the building of the library, and it's pretty long. It goes back. One of the things that I like the best is the seating. They're pretty comfortable. There's the footrest. They're soft, too. You can sit right on them. Chairs, we have a loveseat right here in this little area with a coffee table, two chairs, our display, which is the Teen Book Festival coming up this weekend, and the teen volunteers helped put the books on the display by getting the authors that will be there at the festival.

Another great thing is the study carrel. They can sit down here and study right there, or go up the stairs here and sit up here as we can see that they were up here. And you're allowed to eat here, so there's the left food I see.

You can kind of look up over the room. Our display case is one of those things like that. It has two sides. We keep the magazines over here. Sometimes we flip it and do it the other way.

This is our front room area. It's the front of the library. It's very sunny. There's two tables that they can sit at. I'm going to go back and take a look. There's our books on CDs. There we keep the graphic novels and series and short stories on that side. Here's the other table. We have two computers for the teens, and they're both touchscreen so you can just touch it and sign on.

Going back, turning around, and our building is all brick so we have brick walls there. It looks very nice. We have quite the ceiling. It goes way up and I don't know if you can tell the lights are very nice. They flicker in different colors. Well now it's easier to tell. It's pretty fun. I can actually change the colors for certain holidays.

We keep the fiction paperbacks and hardcovers right over there. I can show you what happens kind of often, unless we're during a vacation. The books get on top because we need to make more room, so I should probably look into weeding again. About twice a year. Not that much room for the books.

I really like it's right near the reference desk over there. And at the front here we have the new books, one of my favorite areas, and the graphic novels, and we also have video games. I find that a lot of fun.

I hope you've enjoyed this tour of our library, the [name removed]. This is where we keep things coming up, right underneath the [name removed] sign. Thank you for visiting.

[End of Staff Video 3]

[End of Session]