

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

### Staff Video

Hi, welcome to the [name removed] Public Library teen department. I'm going to take you on the tour of our library, which is about two and a half years old, and we really enjoy our space. And it truly is a teen space. To start with, we have a number of displayers similar to this one that highlights the current events, and we do hold big events in our library, such as a chocolate festival, and as small as our community is, we usually get hundreds of kids at each event. Anyway, a good part of that is displaying, and we have special displayers, such as this one, that helps get the word out.

I'm going to take you over now to the nonfiction area, and as you can see, these are regular library shelves, and everything's neat [laughs]. That's because I straightened up before filming.

Over here... I'm panning very quickly, but I wanted to take you to our reference area. So reference books and materials are very close by to nonfiction, and speaking of which, we have here a study table as well as a displayer talking about our tutoring service. We offer tutoring for teens, and we have very, very good tutors who are extremely qualified who have taught at the university and college and high school levels. It's been a very popular program.

Again, I'm going to pan around, and we will go to the teen study room, which is close to reference and nonfiction. There's our sign. We'll go inside, where we have a television set, ...a study table ... and a computer. Now, the television set can be used for advertising our programs and events, and it can also be used for informational DVDs, for tutoring DVDs, this sort of thing. This room is very popular and very heavily used.

Connected to it is an indoor patio. We use this patio for a get-together area. Kids can either study in the evenings, but during the day, it's left open for socializing, playing games and other activities that create a little bit of noise, and so that's taken care of in this area so that the tutoring and... that goes on in the evening and the homework and all of that that goes on in the rest of the library is not disturbed.

Again, it's very popular. It's our indoor patio. Lots of windows, which is a feature of this library. The kids absolutely love these chairs. And they kind of remind me of George Jetson chairs.

Okay, leaving this area, we will now go out into the main area, ...okay, where we have a vending machine, and as you can imagine, that's very, very popular. We do allow the kids to eat, but of course not around the computers. That's the only stipulation.

Windows, windows, windows, we love our windows, brings in a lot of light, a feeling of airiness and it's nice to watch the weather. Next to the windows are our café tables. Again, for the kids so that they can eat, relax, study, whatever it is they want to do, very popular. I don't know if you can see it, but on the café tables are signs that say "This Area Is Reserved for Teens 12 to 18 Years Only." That's because our area is so popular and liked by the public... these are screens by the way, fabric screens... that we really want to save this area for the kids. Okay, here we go again, another café table, looking outside, at another screen. We have a number of those screens.

Our new books display, we make sure that's in a prominent area, well signed, lots of popular current titles, and we keep updating and watching this area all day long so that we can keep it just very up to date and very much in order.

Okay, now we go... oh, look at this [laughs]. I can't ignore this. This is our black wall. So much of the teen area and the library is done in this black wall. It's a cement product. I'm not real fond of this, to be honest with you. Thank goodness we have the big, large windows. But the reason for this is that the entire library, which is only about two and a half years old, is a modern version of our extinct (thank goodness) volcano, which is right across the street from us. It's quite a landmark, so the building was designed to replicate what is called "[name removed]." And speaking of that, I have a storage area that I had some artwork done. Oh, this is going to be difficult to see, but it's a replica of the volcano, computerized replica of the volcano at sunset. As you know, [name removed] has beautiful sunsets, and this is our volcano with a typical sunset, which does take place behind [name removed]; and I wish you could see the whole thing at once, but it was a nice way to decorate the storage panel doors.

Here I have another displayer talking about upcoming events and services, and it is in the middle of our teen computer area, our teen computers. They are divided 3:00 to 5:00... well, closed on Mondays, but 3:00-5:00 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. From 3 to 5 o'clock in the afternoon, we reserve these computers for homework only. The other section is open to whatever, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 3:00-5:00. We just want to serve all needs of the kids, so we have our little more noisy areas and our quieter areas, and they're separated. Our teen area is extremely popular. If there is anything I would like to do, it would be to expand it, make it larger, because it is attractive. It's drawn in a lot of kids, and we really don't have enough room already, even though that we're two and a half years old.

I would love to show you some posters (back to this black wall again) that I have put up, but since you don't want people's faces in our recording here, I can't show them to you. But they are actual photographs of our kids holding their favorite book, and at the bottom it says, "Read," and these have been made into posters and framed and they're throughout the teen area on the black wall. This gives the kids a feeling of real ownership...and excitement when they come in and see themselves.

Here we go into fiction. The series of fiction shelves, and as you might have caught on at this point, the one drawback to this area is that we have a virtual interaction room that

literally cuts the teen area in half and faces the other way, so it's not considered part of the teen area; and it does chop it in half, divides it in half. Our graphic novel section is here at the end of fiction. We did not integrate that into the nonfiction area. It's a separate area by itself, and then, of course, so are our DVDs and music. They are at the very end, actually I should say the beginning of the teen area, facing outwards, because we've found that adults are coming in and getting our music and our DVDs, into the teen area, and we really do reserve that area for 12-18 year olds, so it's good to have this at the very outside of the teen area.

Next to the teen area we have an outdoor patio that really is for any and everybody. It's not a teen patio, but the teens use it a lot because it does join the teen area. As you know, in [name removed], we have very good weather, at least at our elevation, so...

Oh, let me show you one thing [laugh] before I forget. Love the area. I've already mentioned that kind of a negative, the virtual interaction room that divides the teen area in half, but mostly it's very positive. It's a very attractive area, and the kids feel, I think, a sense of that they're important because we've put so much into this area.

I forgot to show you my office [laughs]. Here's the sign for my office, kind of sets the tone, don't you think? Anyway, what I do like about this office is that it's surrounded by glass, so it's very easy for me to keep an eye on things. These are the windows looking out on the teen area from my office. And it's also so open and inviting that the kids, you know, just feel very welcome to come in, and I think it's because of the glass, you know, just not forming a real strong barricade.

There is also in my office a panel of glass that looks out onto our patio area, so I can keep an eye on things there, as well. So I'm real happy with this office. Okay, except for one thing, and I hope you get the perspective of this. This is all enclosed in glass... trying to back up so you can see. This is all the office here, enclosed by glass. Okay? And of course, there we go, we have a sign in there, don't know if you can read it. It says "we love teens," and we do. Okay, here's the negative, though. This is the door. And where is the lock? The lock is way down on the floor. That's it right there. So that's obviously a negative, but overall, we love our teen area and hope that you enjoyed this presentation. Thank you.

[End of Staff Video]

## Youth Video

So this is the front of the teen area. It's an information board, which is handy to have, tells you about upcoming events, all of which are free, so that's pretty cool. Over here we have all of the reference books. There's more reference books over here and on the other sides of the bookshelves, as well. There's a table right here to study at, and in here is a little study area. As you can see, there's a television and a computer area. Kids like to come in here and just spread out, do little study groups and whatnot.

You keep going. In here there's a little lounge, which is really neat. People also come in here to study and just hang out, relax. It's a nice place to just come hang out with friends.

In through this little window is the librarian's office. We can go around and look at that some more.

There's a vending machine. People can get snacks, and there's more seating area. People just come study, read, whatnot. We also have lots of computers, which is really nice. People can either do homework or get on Facebook or whatever, so that's pretty handy. We use it for homework help and also like the library catalog are on these computers.

This is back around to the reference books (are) over here. This is the librarian's office, and she's always in there. You can just pop your head in and ask for help or talk to her. She's pretty cool.

Back over here, past the computers and the tables, is all of the fiction books, and there are just lots and lots and lots of them. And out here we have a patio, which is really nice, during like the spring and the summer, go out there, sweat out your homework, whatever.

Over here we have some teens studying.

[Inaudible – other voice]

Oh, sorry. More fiction books, and right here are the CDs and the movies all from the teen section. Here it says "Teen," right there. And I would have to say that my favorite part about the teen library is just the amount of space that we have to hang out. There's all kinds of lounge areas and little patios and little nooks and corners that people can just go to spread out and study. That's definitely my favorite part, and my least favorite part is this big thing here. It's a big room which is not part of the teen area because it is the

virtual reality room, but it's not part of the teen area and it kind of blocks out the... It's right in the middle of the teen area, so we can't utilize that space. But overall, we have a really, really great teen area, and I use it a lot, so I hope that this helps you guys in your study. Thank you very much.

[End of Youth Video]