

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

Staff Video One

Hello, and welcome to our [name removed] here at our library. It's very popular, after school, especially. We have a middle school that's fairly close by, within walking distance, and so, often, this area is pretty packed after school. You can see that we have our general collection here with some books on display at the top. We have some tables with rolling stools, and *very* comfortable chairs, and the ever-popular dual rocking chair here. The tables are sometimes used for tutoring. We do have tutoring that occurs here after school on some instances. It's usually later on in the evening, because as I said before, it's very popular right after school for just middle-schoolers, especially, to come hang out and spend some time playing on the computer. We also have games available; those are very popular. They stay within the library and are not available for check-out. So as I said, we've got our regular collection and then as you can see, we have our paperbacks, new books, we have our display (and this month is poetry), and then we have our graphic novels. Now, the graphic novels are kind of split into two different sections. Graphic novels such as Superman or Batman, etcetera, kind of the more traditional graphic novel I guess, if you will, and then we also have manga graphic novels, which are very, very popular. And then we have our young adult spoken CD's and also young adult Playaways®, which are essentially an MP3. All you have to do is plug in your headphones and you're good to go. And then here we have magazines, which are also very popular. Often, we will come in and they will be kind of everywhere.

We have an online literary magazine here, and people can submit their literature into this box. Over here we have a bulletin board. It's a little sparse right now, but stuff about this space on Facebook and things like that, also creative writing summer camp for the teens to get involved in. Here we have some sheets out on the table, just kind of different things showing realistic fiction for teens or we also have science fiction, fantasy books, mysteries, historical fiction, that sort of thing, just lists that they might be interested in. We also have some publications here about different awards that we have, award books that are out, college, education things, and we also have our Golden Sower nominees here, kind of set apart so that the teens can find them and use them. So this is our space. Again, very popular with the middle school crowd, especially. Well I hope you have enjoyed your tour, and hope you liked our young adult space. Thank you.

[End of Staff Video One]

Staff Video Two

Welcome to our young adult space. The great thing about our young adult space is that it's its own little room right inside our library. It has its own door, so the kids in here can be as loud as they want to be, within reason, of course. One of the best things about our young adult space is the four computers that we have that are just for young adults. Anyone ages 12-18 can be on these computers, and *only* kids 12-18 can be on these computers, which is really great for kids who want that kind of privacy.

I've seen lots of kids using these computers for a variety of reasons including games, Facebook chats, just playing with their friends, homework and all that kind of stuff, so these are really great resource for our teens, and they're probably our most popular thing in this room.

Over in this section is a small seating area that we have. We just have two chairs, but we also have a whole bunch of pamphlets and information, including a lot of FAFSA information and college prep readiness for anybody in middle school, high school and even continuing education students, which is a really great resource for anybody looking for college materials. We also have book lists for any kids that are looking for any sort of things like that or interesting reads.

Starting on this side is our collection. The way that we display our collection is a little bit unique. We try to display our collection with three books on top, kind of highlighting certain books that I think are really great, and we also have front-facing books so that kids can see titles that they either wouldn't look for originally, or ones that are just interesting to me, and I think this is a really great feature, and our shelves stretch all the way across the room in sort of an L-shape.

Another great feature we have is these two tables, which have circular chairs. These are really great for times when we have game nights and that sort of thing, and we have lots of kids that come in here and do that. These are also great for tutoring tables. We have a variety of tutors that come in here on the weekends and use these tables for that sort of function, and it works out really well.

Up here we have a bulletin board that works well for advertisements and that sort of thing. This is where I list all the events that are happening for the month in our teen space.

Over here are two displays. This is our new book display, so every new book that comes in for young adults, this is where it goes. Right next to it is the monthly display. Last month's display was poetry. It was a lot more full than this, but it got all checked out, which is really awesome.

These are our graphic novels, our manga. We have spoken CD's as well as Playaways®, and we also have our whole display of magazines, which has a whole variety of things.

There are a variety of activities that go on in this room. Like I've said, there's tutoring; we have kids who come here just to hang out; we also have a group in the wintertime which we call the "dodgeball kids" that come in here. They go in the recreation center and play dodgeball; then they come over here and hang out and play games, so it's a very nice and safe space for them.

Some things that I'd love to add to this space would be a little bit more art and a little bit more art that displays some of the more unique and creative kids that we have here at our library. I'd love to display it on top of the shelves, because we have a ton of shelf space that we could use. I would also love to use this back wall as a chalkboard wall. I originally envisioned this to be a chalkboard wall, and what I would do with it is paint it all with chalkboard paint and use it as a way to kind of highlight the teen events, kind of like a chalkboard or kind of like a corkboard, that kind of thing, so I could say 'this is something that's happening today,' 'here's an important book quote,' 'this is what I'm reading,' that kind of thing. That's something I would love to see. I would love also to implement more comfortable seating. Although the circular chairs and the four sofas we have are really great, I'd love to have more comfortable beanbag sort of things for the kids that are slightly more comfortable, and it's something the kids have told me they would like, as well.

Last but not least, one other thing we have in this room is the TV, which we allow anybody to use, including young adults, children and adults, but it's great for anybody who just wants to come in and watch a movie. It's great for movie nights with teens because it's... since this room is sort of in the back of the library, it's cut off from the windows and so it gets fairly dark in here, so that's really great!

Thank you for looking at our teen room.

[End of Staff Video Two]