What Does Current Young Adult Space Practice Teach Us About Young Adult Spaces in Public Libraries? Poster Session Presenter at CLA Conference 2012.

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Problem Statement

The IMLS grant “Making Space for Young Adults in Public Libraries” represents the first attempt to systematically examine Young Adult (YA) space practices in public libraries. The core question this research project is exploring is: What does current YA practice teach us about YA spaces in public libraries? The ultimate goal of this study is to help public libraries and design professionals improve YA library utilization by creating equitable and engaging YA spatial resources.

Methods

The study incorporates three data collection approaches:

1) Quantitative analysis of survey data - one survey to YAs, one to librarians.
2) Qualitative analysis of YA space video footage.

How does YA participation in their library spaces influence service outcomes?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth Participation Index</th>
<th>YA space video footage</th>
<th>Replication of YA space in SecondLife</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High involvement</td>
<td>Library A: This space within the YA space features local artwork, cafe-style seating, and laptop computers. Large windows bring in natural light and afford exterior views. In the foreground, one can see the tops of blue gaming chairs used in this space.</td>
<td>Library A:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-scoring libraries noted...</td>
<td>Library B: This wall features book displays, Manga, CD shelving, and YA-produced art. Both the librarian and YA narrator at this library negatively reviewed the red diner-style booths as uncomfortable seating.</td>
<td>Library B:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-scoring libraries noted...</td>
<td>Library C: This view shows a cluster of chairs YAs can use for relaxation or study. Note the style of the four chairs and their proximity to each other. Large windows afford natural light and exterior views. The YA narrator recommended a larger table for studying.</td>
<td>Library C:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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