The Importance of Teenagers to Libraries, and Libraries to Teenagers

Sophia Pilgrim

The Good of looking ahead.
## Agenda

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Who Am I

- My Names Sophia Pilgrim
- Born and Raised In Ketchikan
- I’m a Frequent Library User Since I was Child -
- I’m The Teen Representative of The Library Advisory Board
- I’m Involved in a load of activities at Kayhi
2024 L.A.B Survey

What Grade are You In?

- 17 students were freshman
- 20 students were sophomores
- 16 students were juniors
- 8 students were senior
2024 L.A.B Survey

How Often Do You Go to The Public Library

- 26 people said they went 0 Times a Month
- 19 people said they went 1-3 Times a Month
- 10 people said they went 4-7 Times a Month
- 6 people said they went 7+ Times a Month
2024 L.A.B Survey

Why do you NOT go to the Public Library?
(For those who said they went to the library) Times a Month

“I don’t have time. It closes before I have time to go.” - Freshman

“I got to the Kayhi library during the school year for the most part, but during the summertime, I usually go pretty regularly for work and fun”. - Junior

“I use the school Library- Sophomore”

“I use the Kayhi Library Instead” - Sophomore

“I don't need to go to the public library, I have all the books I like to read at the Kayhi Library” - Freshman

“I prefer to use Kindle books instead of physical books” - Sophomore

“I would rather study at home and don’t have enough time to read anything other than my English class material” - Junior

“I just buy my books usually or get them from teachers for school work” - Sophomore

“I don't have a car so it's hard to get to and from the library to my house.” - Sophomore

“I’m too busy with fall and spring sports to go to the library before or after practice” - Senior
“It’s a welcoming space and the people are always nice. Great third place!” - Sophomore

“It is a nice quiet and calm place to get homework done or to study. I also love reading and looking at books”. - Senior

“The quiet, fairly empty, peaceful environment with a beautiful view + not aggressive lighting + no strong/specific smell + kind staff who let you do your thing. How close it is to kayhi is also very convenient. I go to get work done multiple times a week so I LOVE it. The only complaint I would have is that they close at 6 pm Monday + Thursday. I wish they were open until 8 pm Monday-Thursday and not just Tuesday + Wednesday. When they close at 6pm, I only have like an hour to spend there because I go home to eat first, then drive back, and then yeah... Have to leave within an hour”. - Senior

“Why do you go to the Library?
(for those who answered 1-3,4-7,7+ times a month)

“To get books and their teen kits.” - Sophomore

“It is calm and has a safe vibe to it, also books” - Junior

“T.A.G meetings, hanging out with friends, or just reading a book” - Freshman

“Honestly I love the comfy atmosphere, the lighting is nice, the seating is spaced perfectly apart so I can relax in a comfy chair without making awkward eye contact with someone random, it’s never to loud, the only thing i’d have to criticize is that weird neon green paint on the walls in the teen room, i’m sure it worked with something at some point but now it just hurts my eyes to look up, and because the lighting is perfectly dimmed, so wearing sunglasses makes things a tad to dark.” - Junior
2024 L.A.B Survey

What genres do you like and want to see more representation of?

Why do you Like/ Want to see more of this genre(s)?

Because I have my experiences with them and they are just really good to watch and see how the minds of creative artists do with their final product. - Junior

I enjoy the different perspectives of people, and believe it is important to explore all different points of view, even if you don’t agree with it. - Sophomore

I like these genres because their subject matter is captivating and that makes the stories that they tell resonate with younger readers more and will draw them to continue reading. I know that if I had explored these genres more when I was younger I would be reading outside of school on a more regular basis than I do now. - Senior

Fantasy - 31 votes, Action/Adventure Fiction - 28 votes, YA Romance - 27 votes, LGBTQ+ - 22 votes
Do you have anything else you want to let the Library Advisory Board Know?

“As a high school student I feel that it is important that all students have access to books that are representative of their community. Being able to see a character or situation and being able to relate to it can help students feel less alone and it can make them feel seen. Representation is especially important for young adults who are trying to figure out who they want to be when they graduate soon”. - Junior

“I REALLY wish there were bigger study rooms. I go with a decent sized group of friends to work on stuff pretty often, but we struggle to collaborate effectively because of the pressure to remain quiet/whisper. Yet there’s no way more than 4 people would comfortably fit in one of the little study rooms… It would be nice if there was a space you were allowed to eat in (at least snack type of foods — not like cooked food or anything super messy). I say this because I am HUNGRY after school and want to go get work done and snack while I work, but I can’t… So instead I just go home to eat first, which makes me spend more gas money and takes time away of course that I could be spending studying. I really wish there was a water fountain that could fill up my water bottle. I know there’s a regular water fountain, but the water pressure is far too low to successfully fill up a bottle past 1/4 full… Art supplies would be a fun addition too! watercolor paper + paint, etc. It would be cool if there was a “recommended by your peers/teens” section with a few books changed out every month or so — similar to how they have “staff picks.” Having a simple, decent sized map in the entry area of the library that outlines where you can find which books would also be cool/helpful! Scavenger hunts are also always fun…” - Senior

OH! I forgot to say this in the “why I go to the library” question/section, but I also LIVE FOR the comfy chairs.-Senior
Why Teens Need Libraries

Access to Resources: The Ketchikan Public Library offers a vast array of resources, from books to digital materials, providing teens with access to information they might not have elsewhere.

Safe Space/Third Place: The Ketchikan Public Library provides a safe and welcoming environment for teens to explore their interests, study, and socialize without pressure.

Technology Access: The Ketchikan Public Library provides access to computers, internet, and digital resources, helping teens develop essential digital literacy skills.

Promotes Creativity: The Ketchikan Public Library often hosts creative workshops, writing contests, and arts programs that inspire teens to explore their creativity and express themselves.

Peer Interaction: Library programs and events provide opportunities for teens to meet and interact with peers who share similar interests, fostering friendships and social skills.
Why Libraries Need Teens

**Future Patrons:** Engaging teens now fosters a lifelong love of libraries. As they grow into adults, they're more likely to continue utilizing library services, ensuring the library's relevance and sustainability.

**Diverse Perspectives:** Teens bring fresh ideas, interests, and perspectives to the library community. Their input helps shape programming and collections to better reflect the needs and interests of the entire community.

**Advocacy and Support:** Engaged teens can become powerful advocates for the library, advocating for funding, resources, and policies that benefit the community. Their voices amplify the importance of libraries in society, ensuring continued support from stakeholders.

**Community Outreach:** Teen involvement in library programs often extends to their peers and families, increasing the library's reach within the community. This can lead to stronger community connections and increased support for library initiatives.
My Plan To Get Teens Involved

- Posters!!
  - Getting Good advertising all around the high school and making sure everyone knows all that’s offered at the library!

- Surveys!!
  - I plan to send another Survey Out at the Beginning of the next School Year that will not only help us navigate what teens want for the next year, but also so that they are reminded that the library is here!