

## Libraries – For Readers Only?

The public library. You enter the building, and the cool air rushes out to greet you. You enter with the intention of getting a book, but as you stroll toward the novel section, a question presents itself. Are libraries for readers only? As you walk, you ponder this question, but the answer eludes you. You continue to make your way to the novels, and as you walk, you see a row of computers occupied by adults and children alike. You note that they are playing games, going on the Internet, doing research, or just enjoying the wonderful invention of the computer. You also notice comfy chairs where leisurely readers kick back and enjoy their books.

You head to the back of the library to find your novel, and the further back you go, the quieter it gets. You start to notice desks, tables, and chairs, and you see why the library is such a good place to do your homework. Books for research fill this wing of the library and peacefulness pervades your body. You find your book easily, and silently thank the librarians for the professional time and effort that they give to keep the library organized and looking nice.

As you walk to the check-out, you pass the children's section and decide to take a look inside. You head in and immediately notice a board laden with days and times for fun activities such as story time, free movies, craft days, and even free parties. Your eyes sweep the room and fall upon a wall lined with small computers. You look over a young child's shoulder and see that the computer holds games and educational movies.

You have to get home, so you leave the children's section and head to the checkout. While the librarian is processing your book, your eyes wander. You observe shelves lined with video games, music and movies available to check-out. You see the information desk, where a librarian stands by ready to assist, and you even see the Friends of the Library bookstore, where you can buy books for your own. You glance back to the checkout, and find that your novel is ready. You scoop it up and

head out the door, excited by the prospect of a new book and a new adventure. As you get into your car, you realize that you haven't answered your question yet, "Are library's for readers only?" You ponder this as you drive home, and when you exit your car, the answer hits you like a ton of books. Libraries are for everyone: readers, researchers, gamers, kids, teens, adults and everyone in between.