

“Librarian’s Shelf” by Heather St. Clair

Reorganizing the library

Over the next few months you will see some big changes at the Columbus Public Library. We will be rearranging our book collections to make space for a new, larger young adult space, as well as to bring collections together that are currently in separate areas of the building.

Our nonfiction collection is split into two areas on the east side of the building; most of it resides on the first floor and the remainder on the second floor. This makes it difficult to help patrons look for art, sports, literature, travel, and history books. It also makes it less friendly to customers who may be unaware that we have a second area of nonfiction, those looking for assistance, and those needing to travel between two floors to gather books.

This is also similar for our young adult books. Our YA fiction is near the front desk, while the YA graphic novels are toward the back of the first floor nonfiction space and the YA nonfiction is hidden at the back near the graphic novels. There is also a small collection of YA paperbacks located in our teen space, which is not capable of holding all YA books let alone the approximately 80 young people visiting the library after school.

In addition we do not have any room to add books to the young adult collections, or our adult fiction collection. Librarians are forced to remove books that are being read to make room for new books or cut back on the number of books added, neither of which best serve the public.

In order to remedy these issues, the taller shelving from the second floor nonfiction area will be relocated to the first floor nonfiction area, replacing some of the shorter units. The short units will be used to extend the remaining shorter units on the first floor or be used where the taller shelving was located.

The relocation of shelving will allow us to move all of the nonfiction, 001 to 999 plus biographies, to the first floor where staff is readily available to assist both the casual reader as well as the researcher, using both print and electronic resources.

This will free up all the shelving in the east wing of the second floor, allowing us to move YA fiction, graphic novels, and nonfiction to the second floor, which will become the new teen space capable of handling the afterschool rush.

The relocation of YA books will in turn free up space to expand the adult fiction collection and provide additional shelving for new adult fiction and nonfiction books.

The process of moving shelving has already begun and at this point has only affected the nonfiction books. Our 600s, including cookbooks, auto repair, resume and career, and health books, have been shifted around slightly but are still in the same general area. Our 700s, including arts, and 800s, literature, have also been moved slightly but remain on the second floor as the shelving is moved.

The biggest change at this time is that the 900s, or travel and history section, is now in the process of being moved to the first floor. It is likely that the 900s will be split between the two floors for a bit of time to free up shelving on the second floor to be relocated to the first, yet without enough shelving initially to move all of the 900s to the first floor.

We apologize for any inconvenience this causes anyone; please feel free to seek out staff to assist in locating materials.