

Transitioning to College: Helping You Succeed

<http://www.transitioning2college.org>

Aren't All Libraries the Same?

K-12 School Libraries	Public Libraries	Academic (college) Libraries
Open during school day (or a little beyond)	Usually open until around 9:00 pm on weeknights and may have limited hours on weekends	Stay open later (often 10:00 pm or midnight) and open earlier (7:30 or 8:00 am). May even be open 24 hours during exam time.
Collections are smaller than public/academic library offerings and content varies considerably between school districts	Collections meet the needs of community members (bestsellers, car buying guides, popular movies & music, etc.)	Collections support the courses that are offered on campus and the research needs of students and faculty.
May or may not have computers for student use.	May or may not have computers for public use.	Technology rich. Library may include a computer lab or offer computer assistance.
Subscribe to popular magazines like <i>Time</i> , <i>Newsweek</i> , <i>US News & World Report</i> (usually can't be checked out of the library)	Subscribe to popular magazines like <i>Time</i> , <i>Newsweek</i> , <i>Glamour</i> , <i>Sports Illustrated</i> (some can be checked out of the library)	Subscribe to popular magazines and scholarly journals (in specialized fields such as Business or Education) May or may not be able to check out of the library.
Books arranged by Dewey Decimal call numbers. For example: 305.231 C617	Books arranged by Dewey Decimal call numbers. For example: 305.231 C617	Books usually arranged by Library of Congress call numbers. For example: HQ792.U5 C57 1996 but may use Dewey Decimal
One library per building or school district	Usually only one library per town (larger cities will have more)	May have one library or multiple (specialized) libraries on campus
One help desk in library	Usually more than one help desk (Information/Reference help, book check out, etc.)	Usually more than one help desk (Information/Reference, book check out, Reserves, Audiovisual Services, Computer Support, etc.)
Have research questions? Ask the School Library Media Specialist or your teacher	Have research questions? Ask the Librarian at the Reference Desk or through online services.	Have research questions? Ask the Librarian at the Reference Desk or through online services.