

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)	Open until approximately 9:00 pm on week nights and limited hours on weekends	Open later at night (11:00 pm or midnight) and may be open even longer 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 (Stephen King novels, 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)	Subscribe to popular magazines like <i>Time</i> , <i>Newsweek</i> , <i>Glamour</i> , <i>Sports Illustrated</i> (some can be checked out)	Subscribe to popular magazines and scholarly journals (in specialized fields such as Business or Education)
Books arranged by Dewey Decimal call numbers (for example: 973.92P37b)	Books arranged by Dewey Decimal call numbers (for example: 973.92P37b)	Books (usually) arranged by Library of Congress call numbers (for example: RC 454.G56), 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	More than one help desk (Information/Reference help, book check out, etc.)	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 questions? Ask the Librarian at the Reference Desk	Have questions? Ask the Librarian at the Reference Desk or through online chat or email.