Pros and Cons of a Library Gaming Center

Caroline Labbé and Rebecca LaPlante
Audience Poll

• Do you already have a gaming center?
• Have you been getting requests for a gaming center?
• How do you feel about gaming centers in libraries?
• What kind of library do you work in? (Public/academic/school/other – please specify)

Please respond to the audience poll questions in the chat box.
Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library
John Marshall Library
Gaming is Everywhere!

Boston Public Library (MA)  Deerfield Public Library (IL)
Location, Location, Location

• New library, upcoming renovation, or existing space?
• Within the branch?
• Separate teen center building or room?
• Factors: Noise, staffing, access, privacy, outlets, where to store and charge controllers and games

John Marshall Library (VA)
Gaming Systems

- PlayStation
- Xbox
- Nintendo Switch
- Virtual Reality
- Older gaming systems (Wii)
- Custom gaming experiences
Games

• Issues to consider:
  • Types of games
  • Initial purchase / repurchase
  • Ratings
  • Number of players
  • Internet access
  • How to choose
Games – How to Choose?

Games Like Fortnite

Fortnite seems to have come out of nowhere to become one of the most popular online shooters today. The battle royale formula, pitting one player against all others to be the last gamer standing, has crossed over to the sports and entertainment worlds: When Drake and the Pittsburgh Steelers’ wide receiver JuJu Smith-Schuster hopped online to play a few rounds on Twitch with a popular streamer, the Internet went crazy. We have a list of other games that can fill the fast-paced action itch. Be sure to check out our Best Action Games for Kids list, and for parents concerned about shooters, check out our Gun-Free Action Game Apps list.

Browse Games Like Fortnite

All ages | Teens (13+) | Tweens (10-12)

Plants Vs. Zombies: Garden Warfare 2

- Age 5+
- ★★★★★
- Weird cartoonish multiplayer shooter grows fun for all ages.
- Platforms: PlayStation 4, Windows, Xbox One (2014)

Splatou 2

- Age 10+
- ★★★★★
- Colorful multiplayer shooter is captivating, can melt hours.
- Platforms: Nintendo Switch (2017)
Using Your Games

- Open gaming
- Special programs
- Tournaments
- International Games Week
- Game design

Utica Public Library (NY) – History of Video Games Program
Using Your Games

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Iowa City Public Library (IA) Smash Bros tournament
Policy Considerations

• Age guidelines
• In branch use or check out
• System management
• Length of use
• Outside games and equipment
• Internet access

Pohick Regional Library (VA)
Pros

- Fun and inviting
- Access
- Attract teens
- Stress release
- Building relationships
- Volunteer opportunities

Westerville Public Library (OH)
• Complaints
• Noise
• Trash
• Large groups
• Fortnite/Call of Duty
• Can’t access help sites on staff PCs
Tips

- Location
- Written policy
- Choice of games
- Electrical outlets
- Plan a recharging station
- Prepare staff and any volunteers

Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library (VA)
Preparing staff

- Keep staff informed throughout process
- Prepare for complaints
- Provide talking points
- Provide training
- Identify power users to address technical issues
- Determine how concerns will be elevated

Utica Public Library (NY)
Now You’re Ready!

- Identify factors to consider
- Recognize challenges and how to proactively address them
- Develop policies and procedures

Meriden-Ozawkie Public Library (KS)
Questions?

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