

Title:

Why I Love to Read

I love the Fairfield County District Library because there is a big variety of books and dvd's. The people working always help me find books that I like. My favorite book series is Sophie Mouse. Sophie Mouse is fun to read or listen to because if you close your eyes and imagine it feels like you are in the story. Once you find your favorite book you can lay back and relax and enjoy. I also like that the library provides a quiet place to read.

I love to read! It is so fun because there are funny books and interesting books. I love them both you can even learn new words from both. And you can check out as much books as you want you just have to have them back by a certain time and you have to take care of them. And if something spills on it you may just have to pay for it.

## Why the Fairfield County Library is Important to Me

The Fairfield County Library is important to me because it is a house of literature and learning and builds a sense of community for patrons. The Fairfield County Library has created a scholarly environment for curious students, like me, to explore any subject they please; fictional or non-fictional. I absolutely love going to the library to check out books on history and animals. The library also provides an outlet to explore and expand your horizons with shelves and shelves full of hidden stories and knowledge. The music section introduced me to many genres and bands that I still listen to currently. I have vivid memories of walking over to the library with my CD Walkman and picking out music CD's and books that piqued my interest. The computers at the library also allowed me to study online if there was not a book available to my needs. A library is a structure that defends education, history, fantasy, and adventure. ✓

On another note, the Fairfield County Library accomplishes to create a sense of community based on its resources in several ways. The offered books, magazines, CD's, and audiobooks have generated opportunities to create new friends based on common interest. I have made many friends at the library, and we keep in touch today. We occasionally read together and revisit our favorite books from when we were younger. The library also establishes a community by offering activities, resources, and hospitality to its patrons. With activities ranging from book page paper crafts to tasting pumpkin themed treats, the library offers a fun activity for family and friends to take part in, bringing the people of Lancaster together in a way. Not to mention the activities for pride month, like rainbow soap making and rainbow beaded pins. I love how the library shows it's support not only through crafts but featuring LGBTQIA+ books and authors. By keeping the library welcoming and warm, patrons are appreciated and accepted sincerely by the staff. And some of these patrons may not have access to a warm and welcoming household. This hospitality creates and maintains a kind citizenry and safe feeling among the patrons. Such an environment is important to me because people really need a sense of belonging and a source of social connection.

The Fairfield County Library offers adventure and scholar within its welcoming walls. The preservation of history and fantasy is incredibly important to me because I could simply not go on without it; and I know that I am not the only one who feels this way. Books have always provided me with new words and comfort, or sometimes words *of* comfort. Books and titles will always remain as a prominent and enjoyable aspect in my life, and my passion for exploring within the confines of a book would have never been discovered if the Fairfield County Library hadn't been there. I have visited many, *many* libraries in Ohio, and I truly mean it when I say that the Fairfield County Library is the most collected in the sense that its patrons have a good relationship with the staff and the institution itself. It's resources, events, and community will forever stay with me and my memories. Thank you, friends of the Fairfield County District Library for the memories and scholar, and congratulations on 50 years of service! ✓

The Fairfield County District Library is important to me because it is a place that encourages community and connection. It is a place where people can willingly help each other without obligation. Individuals can walk away from the Fairfield County District Library with so much more than a book, if they choose to invest the time and willingness to be present. A mom can bring her toddler to storytime, a teen can learn about arts and crafts, a family can attend a quiz night, and a couple can go to a play for entertainment. It is a place where individuals from numerous walks of life can come and gain a sense of belonging, and it is an environment that tailors to all ages.

For the preschooler at the very beginning of phonetics, they can find picture books and alphabet books into the vast literary universe. For the kindergartener and elementary school child, they can find a world of adventures at the edge of their fingertips. The middle school/junior high student can view the library as a resource for school and their studies; they can use it as a place to work on homework or find a good book or movie after a long, hard day of school. For the high schooler, they can find GED/ACT preparatory materials, and they can receive guidance as they begin adulthood. For the adult (whether they are in higher education or a parent carting around their kiddos), the library can simply act as a safe place to not feel stressed. For the elderly individual, it is a place to find documentaries and books over events that they have personally experienced. They can come and see the next generation behind them gaining knowledge.

From my own personal childhood and adulthood, I have spent considerable amounts of time at the library. During my childhood, I would fill my backpack with all sorts of books (both fiction and nonfiction) and movies, and I participated in a wide variety of events at the library. I joined in a Monopoly tournament as a teenager, and I also participated in the Lancaster Artwalk by building a Peep display for their annual competition. As an adult, I attended a radio play on Friday night with my sisters, I went there for chocolate during the annual Chocolate Walk, and I have scavenged the yearly book sale looking for my favorite titles to keep for myself.

The library is the heart of the community in Fairfield County. It can simply be a place to find adventure and keep oneself entertained for a few hours, or it can be a place to find community. When life gets hectic and busy, people may not have as much time to go to the library as before. However, I believe that is the best part; when they need it, they can always find their way back.

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I love the Fairfield County District Library because it is the place that began my love of libraries. I truly love visiting different libraries and viewing their collections of books and observing their facilities. The collections of reference and very old books - some so rare that you may only sit at a table to read them are always interesting to me. The new books that have just arrived without creases in the spines since no one has yet read them beckon me to read their latest ideas.

Every library I visit is compared in my mind to the Fairfield County District Library because that is the place where I learned to love libraries as a child. It is the library where I got my first library books checked out on the first card that I signed my name. It's the place where I took my own children - once babies - to lapsit storytime. It's the place where I weekly walk in and the staff greet me by name and tell me that they have a stack of books ready for me. There is no library quite as wonderful as the library in my hometown - the Fairfield County District Library.

Title: Because I Don't Have Immediate Access to a Space-Time Portal or Why the Fairfield County District Library is Important to Me

Ever watched one of those science fiction shows where someone jumps through a portal and lands in some exotic world deep in our past or far into the future? Well I guess that is why the Fairfield County District Library is important to me. With a just a free library card, any local resident can check out a book or a video and jump headlong into some other reality (and wouldn't necessarily have to wear a weird space uniform). By visiting one of its branches, or its website, a library patron can access a world's worth of entertainment. Any Fairfield County resident can obtain a library card and with it get free access to what seems like an almost unlimited supply of books, CDs, videos, and other media. If they don't have it on their shelves, they can try to locate an item at one of their 17 partner libraries and through inter-library loans. Want to be scared - how about a Steven King novel. Want adventure – how about checking out an Indian Jones movie. Want romance – um not sure on that one, better ask your friendly librarian for a book recommendation.

Of course jumping through time and space portals via books and other media is mostly about entertainment, but there is also tons of practical information available for free at the Fairfield County Library. You can find books with tips on resumes and job searches, find information on your ancestors in the genealogy room, or grab a cookbook to help plan a summer cookout.

And then there are the services and outreach the Fairfield County Library provides - such as early literacy programs, Happy Campers Storytime, computers with Internet access, and meeting rooms. They even deliver collections of library materials to day cares, nursing homes, and other homebound folks.

And so you might be asking at this point how I happen to know about all that the Fairfield County Library has to offer. Well I am a proud lifelong patron of this vital institution. One of my earliest memories was of my mom taking me up to the second floor our venerable Lancaster's Municipal building, which was where the library was located back then, to get my very own library card. No of course there wasn't access to a science fiction type space-time portal with my new card. But it did give me a key of sorts to another amazing kind of portal - free lifetime access to the vast array of entertainment, information, and services that is the Fairfield County Library.