



Oregon's Kitchen Table – Josephine Community Libraries – First Chapters Consultation

Josephine Community Libraries, in partnership with Oregon's Kitchen Table, conducted an online consultation with Josephine County residents in June 2015 to better understand their opinions and values on updating the libraries' children's spaces, including materials, furnishings and setting. The results will be used to help inform a redesign of the children's libraries in Grants Pass and Illinois Valley.

A total of 159 residents participated in the survey. Responses were received from participants across 10 unique zip codes across the region. It should be noted that 50% of respondents had children living with them and 50% did not; of those that did, 36% had children between 0-5 and 47% had children between 6-12 years old. Nearly three-quarters of those who responded were either a volunteer or a donor to the library. Regional breakout and other demographic characteristics of the respondents are presented in the tables below.

Only 12% of respondents marked that they were Very Satisfied with the materials, setting and furnishings of the current children's libraries, while 50% said they were "satisfied." Respondents overwhelmingly wanted to see the library invest and improve resources and programs for children in "Contemporary books and Materials," "Summer Reading Program," and "Storytimes." They were less interested in seeing investments in "Robotics and 3-D printers" and "Audiobook stations."

1. Please indicate how satisfied you are with the materials (books, etc.) and setting and furnishings of the current children's libraries:

Very Satisfied	14%
Satisfied	50%
Not satisfied	23%
Don't Know/No Opinion	13%
Total	100% (N=136)

2. Where would you most like to see us invest and improve resources and programs for children? (Please rank each one from 1 to 5, with 1 being very important to you and 5 being not important)

	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	Totals
Contemporary books and materials	57%	15%	8%	8%	12%	100% (N=152)
Audiobook stations for listening to books in the library	11%	26%	30%	17%	13%	100% (N=149)
Age-appropriate technology	33%	25%	15%	12%	13%	99% (N=150)
Access to the internet	20%	18%	27%	20%	15%	100% (N=137)
Music programs	26%	24%	27%	14%	9%	100% (N=152)
Event spaces (birthday parties, other gatherings for children)	14%	23%	18%	27%	18%	100% (N=141)
Summer Reading Program	57%	17%	8%	6%	12%	100% (N=155)
Robotics and 3-D printers	12%	13%	14%	34%	27%	100% (N=128)
Storytimes	49%	19%	13%	9%	10%	99% (N=149)

3. The children's libraries are currently staffed by volunteers. How important is it to you that we have a professional children's librarian?

Very Important	33.9%
Important	34.6%
Not Important	23.7%
Don't Know/No Opinion	7.7%
Total	99.9% (N=156)

4. How important is it to you to keep the historic feeling of the library buildings?

Very Important	13%
Important	27%
Not Important	49%
Don't Know/No opinion	11%
Total	100% (N=152)

Demographics (all demographics available upon request from OKT)

5. Do you have any children living with you?

Yes	50.3%
No	49.7%
Total	100% (N=153)

6. If so, how old are they (mark all that apply):

0-5	25%
6-12	32%
13-18	11%
N/A	32%
Total	100% (N=162)

7. How often do you visit the library?

Never	3%
Every few months	17%
At least once a month	35%
Every week	43%
I only use the online resources, like eBooks and databases.	2%
Total	100% (N=152)

8. Please select from the drop down menu so we can determine the branch nearest to you.

97497	2.0%
97523	12.1%
97526	44.3%
97527	30.8%
97258	.7%
97532	2.0%
97534	.7%
97537	.7
Other...	6.7%
Total	100% (N=149)

9. Are you currently a volunteer or donor of Josephine Community Libraries?

Volunteer	22.5%
Donor	51.1%
N/A	26.4%
Total	100% (N=178)

Participants were given the opportunity to share how the library has impacted their life or their child's life. Common responses centered around how important summer reading was for either respondent or child (or both), how the library has had a positive impact over generations in families, and the critical role the library played for very young (under 5 years old) children. All responses to this question were provided to Josephine Community Libraries and are available upon request from Oregon's Kitchen Table.

Growing up, my library was my home. There I found magical places, friends, and adventures. As an adult, the library remains my home.

We love going to the library. My daughter gets so excited to pick out new books and hang out in the children's section. Visiting the library keeps our home "library" fresh and exciting, nurtures her creativity, and encourages her to learn to read on her own.

The summer reading program was a great way to keep kids actively reading over the summer so they didn't lose ground at school. They also got to see people of all ages reading for pleasure and utilizing the library, coming to see this as normal behavior.

I have my most fond memories of the summer reading program, as a child. It was something my brother and I always looked forward to. My children have discovered some of their favorite authors thanks to the access the library gives them to a wide variety of books. They've also forged friendships with many of the regular volunteers, both in the children's department, and in the extra programs, like Young Master Gardeners. They've made memories through the hands-on gardening activities from the later that I know will last a lifetime.

My children love going to the library and checking out books, doing crafts and playing at the train table. They LOVE participating in the summer reading program year after year and earning prizes. As a mom I love that they are able to explore books that each of them are interested in. Reading together is one of the many things my family enjoys and the library helps keep the stories fresh and interesting!

We've been attending the GP library since my son was a toddler (he just turned 5). If we didn't have the library, there is no possible way we could support his love of reading and desire for new books to satisfy his voracious appetite. Story times were an essential part of building his early childhood skills, both mental and social.

My children are now adults, avid readers, and wonderful in their interactions with young children, and I believe the library contributed to the development of those characteristics.

I volunteered at the library when I was a teen, and it was a great opportunity to learn and develop work skills. I went to the library every week when I was pregnant, learning all about my growing baby and how to parent. When I didn't have internet access for my college classes, I went to the library. When my daughter was around 6 months old, I started taking her to the library once a week. We still go, and she loves finding new books and reading them together at home! It's a great way for us to spend time together.

Every child and adult should have access to libraries and good books that are age appropriate. The library environment needs to be appropriate for our young children. I have been involved with the Sensory Storytime for two and three

year olds. I would love to see a children's area that would better meet the needs of our young children and children with special needs.

When my grandson was born, one of the things I did to prepare for his homecoming was take a trip to the library. Having been in the NICU for several weeks, he needed extra care, and I would hold him close and read to him. He would look into my eyes as we heard stories of Astro Bunnies, Ferdinand, Petunia. Each week, I would choose new stories to hear, new art to gaze at. He is more the Magic Treehouse type now, but I will often go over to the picture book section to remind me of this marvelous time I shared with him, and feel so very grateful that the library here endures so other children can hear and see and explore all of the marvelous stories that await them.

I came to the library as a child, volunteered and then worked here as a teen/young adult. Was very sad when it closed and over joyed when it re-opened. Now I bring my children here and we enjoy our library very much.

Participants were given the opportunity to share what improvements they'd like to see in the children's libraries. Some respondents focused on how satisfied they currently are with the libraries and with the staff and volunteers while others provided specific changes (including extended hours and professional staff, should funding allow) they would like to see in specific branches. Common responses centered around new furnishings, additional space, and updated book selections. All responses to this question were provided to Josephine Community Libraries and are available upon request from Oregon's Kitchen Table.

The Grants Pass branch needs new carpet, better lighting, more space to enjoy the books and programs, better layout of books and resources, and better selection of current books and popular series. It would be so lovely to have a bright, well-lit, well-stocked children's library!

Illinois Valley Branch. Bright, cheery decorations. Books shelved for easier access; beginners books low, more advanced material higher. Stable reading area with fun, comfortable seating

The only thing I would like to see more of is stuff for the smaller toddlers. My son is 3 and, while he likes the story times, the only one he likes is the sensory story times because he has a hard time sitting still for the other ones.-and this is at the Josephine County branch in Grants Pass

adequate funds for new books and renewing of old books that are beloved.

More variety in history, biographies, science, animals, and poetry books. We'd love to see more up to date volumes in these areas. I know my kids would love more chapter books to choose from, too. Not just newer authors, but older classics, as well.

Floor cushions, potted plants, kind of themed areas for children to read in. Don't have to be huge, just basic little areas.

I only know the main branch, and find the children's library impressive, especially for the early readers. I have not looked at the collections for upper elementary, middle and high school. As a former library page and volunteer, I would urge careful attention to keeping the shelves neat and in order. Disorderly shelves are very discouraging to kids. Of course, that is a tough job....

The children's library in Grants Pass is disjointed and doesn't function well. A more effective layout is badly needed, books need to be "weeded" and volunteers need to concentrate more on shelf reading, as these books get out of order regularly.

The main branch children's library needs computers that work consistently. Please keep the openness of the windows with natural light to boost moods. The volunteers do a phenomenal job making the space enjoyable!

While the actual building in Grants Pass is not of great historical value, the many people who have developed and sustained a public library in this historical town are truly important. It does take a strong community to open their hearts to those in need. We do it here in the arts and recreation areas superbly. We are capable of doing it in our library, as well.

It's important to have a variety of activities that relate to reading and learning at the library for all children in our community. Keeping in mind that some children have special needs or learning and disabilities. Creating an environment that will welcome all and help every child feel important is most important to me.

Grants Pass branch. I'd like to see a dedicated space for children's programming (story times, Baby Rhyme time, parent/child activities, etc.) that would be enclosed with low walls, or even better, full windows to provide a clear boundary for children and to contain the noise/activity levels that might disturb other patrons. This would allow for more flexible scheduling of children's activities.

I's also like to see the children's book collection culled and updated, and if funding were available, the services of a professionally trained children's librarian.