

Should libraries be extinct??

For many, libraries are an oasis. A quiet, peaceful place for people to cuddle up and take themselves to a place they wouldn’t dare to dream of in real life. Whether it’s a school for wizards visiting the moon, or having a competition about lemonade, books take you places that you couldn’t go in this life, and the library is the perfect place to start your journey! It is a place to relax, get some work done, and to start your adventure. Without the library, people wouldn’t have a quiet peaceful place filled with imagination and creativity. It is integral that libraries continue to be a part of our communities. Many others may argue, that an E-book or a Kindle can do just this. But, these are some of the things that nothing else can provide. No peace of technology can provide you with the things a library can. Libraries should stay in existence because they offer free internet for many people who may not be able to afford their own, because they are also used as shelters when needed, and because they carry books which are more eco - friendly than many other devices.

It turns out, libraries are much more than expected to be. Libraries don’t only give out books, but help to make sure they provide their fellow community members with things they may not have at their own homes. A bountiful number of people have said that the public or community library is more than helpful to them because they are able to use free WiFi. Research shows, that about "92 percent of blacks and 86 percent of Latinos said it was very important for libraries to offer free access to computers and the Internet." This was a direct quote from an article called "*Failing to Close the 'Digital Divide'*" The article reveals how there is a huge population of people in the U.S. who don't have direct access to internet connection or WiFi service outside of the library, and so the library is an essential component to their survival. Another study shows that people don't come to the library to play games on the computer, they come for many different reasons. "Users of public library Internet connections tell surveyors that they're applying for jobs, doing homework, getting information about health care, finding out about government benefits and managing their finances," reveals the *New York Times*. It may seem silly when people say that some *need internet*, but when it comes to using the internet to manage your finance, the

internet isn't such a *silly* thing afterall.

Furthermore, libraries are not only used for a quiet place to sit and enjoy a good book. Many people are able to be helped by the library, or are able to be provided with something that they might so desperately need. For example, many people were able to shelter themselves at libraries during Superstorm Hurricane Sandy. This is true because some of my closest friends went to our town library, or the South Orange Library during and even after Superstorm Sandy. After the storm, many town members were left without heat and power. But luckily, the library became the power hub, which is why about 50% of the town went there to charge electronics, see some light, and most importantly, warm up. If the library wasn't there, people would have been shivering in the darkness of their own homes. But not only do people go there during a storm, some homeless people go to enjoy the heat after having been on the streets for days. And if you walk around you will see that people are not just lounging around, they're reading. I know because I put back the books that they're reading at the end of the day. They're reading reference material, they're reading the newspapers, and they're reading the periodicals. And that's what we want. They're using the library, and that's a good thing."

The less researched side, may say that E-books, Kindles, and other reading devices are more environmentally friendly than books, but, I argue that this statement, is wrong! Many people say that books are less eco- friendly than E-books or Kindles because they are made of paper and paper is trees. While it might be true that books do use up a lot of paper, with just one tall tree, many, many, many, many, books can be made. Books that will live on, stories, that will live generation, to generation, to generation. One 60 foot pine tree, will make roughly 85,000 sheets of paper. That one tree, would make about 566 full 150 page chapter books. Also, E-books and kindles will help pollute the air after a long period of time. Books many need to be driven to place to place, but, it involves no electricity once it's bought, and no fuel. Eliminating 2/3 elements that cause pollution. E-books on the other hand, are run on electricity, are shipped back and forth, factory to factory, which is based on fuel, and is transported everywhere! This means it involves 3/3 elements that cause air pollution, whereas books, only equal 1/3 elements.

Clearly, these are debatable reasons. But when you look at the facts, it's obvious that one view makes much much more sense than the other. It's essential that libraries be a part of our community because they offer free internet and WiFi, because they are used as shelters, and because books, are more eco - friendly than most other devices. Sure, many others may find ways to make libraries sound like they are not needed, like that they waste trees, or that libraries don't contribute anything to the community, but they're wrong, because from what I've explained to be, it's obvious that we don't give these learning centers as much credit as they deserve. Libraries are peaceful, quiet places that welcome all that want to come explore. Sure, not *all libraries are "up to date"* but, with a little help from the people in the communities, I'm sure they would be happy to update their space. You could be the one to save your community learning center.