

Smith Public Library—Self Guided Tour

Welcome to our library! We hope this tour helps you get to know your library.

The Lobby

Do you see the **portrait of Rita and Truett Smith**? They are the founders of our library. They



owned a bank in downtown Wylie in 1970 and they used the space in the upstairs of their bank building to exchange books. People would donate books and borrow others and that's how the library began.

Did you know Mrs. Smith also has an elementary school named after her here in Wylie?

It grew so quickly, that the Smith's opened a separate store front just for the library. Eventually they realized the city needed a free-standing library building, so the Smith's donated the money to build the 7,000 square foot building on Thomas Street. It opened in 1985 and is now the Senior Center.



In March of 2011, we moved to the building that you are standing in now. *The library is almost 44,000 square feet and currently owns over 100,000 items!*

Other important parts of the lobby:

- The Conference Room—holds about 30 people
- The Multi-Purpose Room—holds up to 200 people
- Restrooms—very important!



The Book Return

Find the **book return** around the corner from the portrait of Rita & Truett Smith. This is where you return all of your items. *Notice the print above the return box?* The reason you can only put in one at a time is because a computer automatically checks in every item you put in the slot thanks to the **RFID tag (Radio Frequency Identity Tag)**.

It's like a small microchip inside every item that tells the computer everything about the item. (You can see it if you flip to the very back of book. It's a square white tag.)



This is also how the self-check machines work—keep walking through the gates to see the **self-check machines** on your left.

The Service Desk

This is where you go when you need help with checking something out, have a question about your account or if you need to get a library card. Just across the aisle from the desk is where all of our hold items are kept.



How much does a library card cost? (It's free!)

Do you have to live in Wylie to get a card at our library? (No! We do not have a residency requirement. Kids need to have a parent/guardian come with a picture ID to set up an account.)

The Children's Area

The children's area begins with the **Easy section** and there is an early childhood play area over by the windows complete with a castle and toys. As you move toward the back of the library, materials are geared towards older readers.



Notice the small brightly colored **range finders** at the end of all the aisles. Those tell you what books are on each aisle.



Notice the **giant tree that is the entrance to the story time room**. Touch the tree—is it real or fake? Totally fake! It is made out of steel and concrete and it is so heavy it is bolted to the ceiling, to the wall and to the floor!



As you move through the children's section, you'll notice the **children's computers**. There are eight (8) Internet computers currently in this section.

Do you have to have your own card to sign in to the children's Internet computers? (Yes, parents must sign giving permission for minors to be on the Internet, so kids must have their own card.)

Do you think adults can sign on to the children's computers? (No, only kids can sign in to these computers and only adults can sign in to the adult machines across the aisle.)

Next begins the **chapter book sections with Genres, Fiction and Series**.

Keep moving through the area until you find the **Graphic Novels**.



Notice the J on all of the range finders—do you know what that stands for? (Juvenile-which is a fancy word for kid).



Notice the range finders next to the graphic novels area—what do you notice that's different about them? (Numbers!)

Anytime you see *numbers* on the shelves at the public library that means you are in the **non-fiction section**.

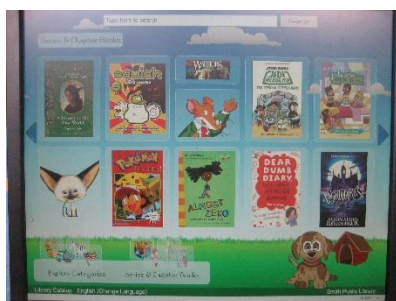
**Do you know what the difference is between fiction and non-fiction?
(Fiction is made up or not real and Non-fiction is real or books of information.)**

All of our non-fiction is organized by the **Dewey Decimal System**. This system assigns a number for different subjects.

Take a look at your Dewey bookmarks.

If you were looking for a book on how to speak Japanese—what section would you look in? (400-Languages).

What if you were looking for books on the Civil War? (900-History)



Located in the non-fiction area there is a **computer** that is an **OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog)**. You'll find these computers all around the library. You can use the OPAC to look up the items that you want to find.

An example: Go to the main search page. Do a Keyword search that contains the phrase "Diary of a Wimpy Kid." You'll notice that you get DVDs, audio/sound recordings, books in Spanish as well as the series itself. Look at all the different formats the books come in and you can tell what it is by the description.



The Adult Section

Go directly across the aisle into the adult section. As you cross the aisle, you'll see the **Bluebonnet Room** on your right. This is a quiet reading room where people can come to study. Notice that the outside of the room is covered in **Millennium Tile**, which you also see outside the building. It changes colors as the light hits it. We think it looks like dragon scales.



If we were to write a story about a Wylie dragon, would that be fiction or non-fiction?
(Fiction)

Notice the **range finders** at this end of the adult section.

Are there letters or numbers? (Numbers) What does that mean? (It's non-fiction.)

The adult non-fiction section is also organized by the **Dewey Decimal System**, so if you were looking for a book on how to speak Japanese in the 400's in children's, you'd look in the exact same place in the adult section.

Notice the two **study rooms** in the back. Adults can sign up to use those rooms at the Help Desk.

Walk to the stone wall at the front of the building. Feel free to touch it. This is stone from West Texas and it is the same stone that is on the outside of the building.

Walk over to the computer area for adults. Notice the help desk towards the aisle. As you walk through the adult area consider this:

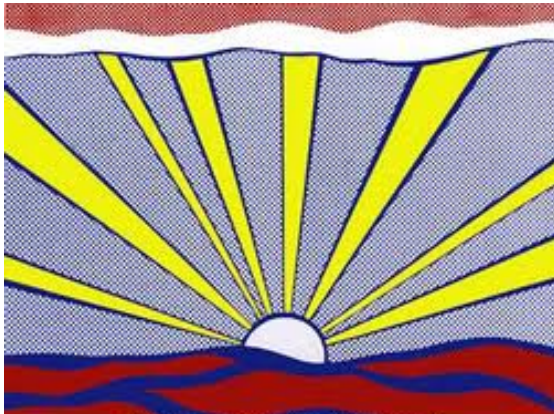
How is the public library different from your school library?
(It's bigger, there are books for adults, there are meeting rooms that the public can sign up to use.)

Teen Room

Notice the tilting Millennium Tile at the end of the adult area. That is actually the **Teen Room** and it was designed to be completely different from the rest of the library. **This room is for 7th-12th graders only**, but you are welcome to come in and take a look. Notice the floor—it is made of recycled rubber tires and all of the books are located *around the perimeter of the room*. There are 3 gaming systems and chromebooks in here for teens to check-out and use. Anyone is welcome to come in and get a book, but only 7th-12th graders can use the games and hang out.



This room was inspired by a famous artist—can you guess which one? (Lichtenstein)
Here are some examples of his work:

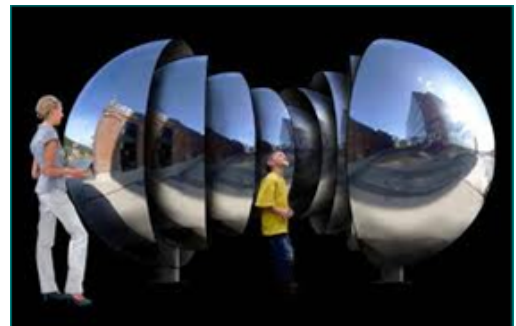


Roy Lichtenstein - Sunrise, 1965 - Offset Lithograph
Paper: 18 15/16 x 24 5/16 in - Image: 17 5/16 x 23 1/4 in



As you exit the teen room to the right you'll notice the **computer lab** and a final **small business center**. If you go around the magazine area, you'll see the audio books, DVDs and new books for the adult area. There is a **business center** across from the materials which has a copy machine and a fax machine for public use.

Now you should be at to the **Service Desk**, close to the main aisle. Head back to the **lobby**. You will notice a **silver keyboard** along the entrance wall. This keyboard is part



of the interactive sculpture in the courtyard called [Voices of Wylie](#). There is a microchip in the sculpture that communicates with the keyboard. Type a message, it is translated into Braille and then into music. Try it—it's fun!

This concludes the self-guided tour of Smith Public Library. We sure hope you enjoyed your visit and that you will come back and see us again soon!