

# Room 14 opens at West Vancouver Memorial Library

By Jenny Benedict.

On March 6, West Vancouver Memorial Library opened Room 14 ("room for teen"), a new teen space created by teens for teens.

Head of WVML Youth Services, Shannon Ozirny says, "It's a new space in our community where teens can create and connect. They can do work like putting together a digital portfolio for a university application, play around with a video they've taken on a smart phone, or simply hang out and study with friends. Room 14 is a welcoming space that offers all of these things and more."



Photo by Sarah Moldenhauer

## Space allocation

In Room 14, space is allocated to reflect a balance between physical and digital collections and study and social spaces. The room has five zones: a hangout area and a group study area in the centre, individual study area and computer terminals on each side, a fiction reading nook and a meeting room designed to maximize the space's natural light.

## Technology

Room 14 has the technology teens need for both school assignments and pursuing their own projects and passions. This means lots of outlets for devices, as well as computers that support digital content creation. Using software that can manipulate graphics and sounds, teens can produce materials with images and audio, as well as more traditional

text formats. Room 14 also gives teens the chance to showcase their digital creations on a 55-inch multifunctional monitor that can be connected to laptop or tablets.

## Collections

The book and DVD collections, which the teens rated as their primary reason for coming to the Library, are around the perimeter of the room. Playaways, audio books, and magazines are also available.

## Library staff resources

WVML's expert staff members are on hand to assist teens in learning how to navigate and evaluate resources to find the best information, as well as what technology to use to best communicate their work. The staffing complement includes Digital Access Librarian, Sarah Felkar, and Youth Services Librarian, Erika Jelinek.

## Financial support

Funding for the project was generously contributed by the West Vancouver Memorial Library Foundation and the District of West Vancouver. Proceeds from WVML Foundation's successful 2011 Gala Fundraiser *A Passport to Italy* and a \$10,000 donation from Dr. Arjang Nowtash were donated to Room 14.

## About the WVML Youth Department

The Youth Services Department is committed to ensuring that all youth in our community have an equal opportunity to build literacy skills, to progress successfully through the school years, and to transition into the work force equipped for lifelong learning.

For a profile of West Vancouver Memorial Library's forward-thinking services to youth, view this [video](#) of UBC iSchool's interview with Director Jenny Benedict and Youth Services Head Shannon Ozirny.

*Jenny Benedict is the Director of Library Services at West Vancouver Memorial Library.*