

## **The College Library: A Social Hub on Campus**

Think the library is just for hard study and the people who love it? Maybe it used to be that way, but today's college libraries are the place to see and be seen, network, learn, and play – in short, the full college experience in one handy building.

### **Networking – Part 1**

Study after study shows that it's not what you know, but who you know, that get you ahead in this world. You may meet your closest friends in the dorm or in class, but you can meet anybody at the library. All it takes is a simple "What are you reading?" to start a conversation. See who is browsing the stacks you're interested in, or just hang out at the big study tables, and you could instantly expand your social circle.

### **Networking – Part 2**

The library usually has free computer time and free wifi on offer to all students. It's a good idea to get familiar with their setup, even if you have your own system, as it is a reliable backup that could be critical when you are racing to finish that term paper. Don't forget that you can use their broadband connection to download those big files more quickly, too, or play online games.

### **Meetings**

Libraries tend to have a suite of small study rooms that you can book for group meetings. The library is usually central, accessible, and well-known by every student, minimizing the time and effort needed to get together and work on a project. Most libraries also have all the audio-video and computer resources you might need. As there are no distractions and all the tools you need, you'll get your work done much faster. Don't forget, they are also a great place to practice a speech or presentation.

### **Find Out What's On**

College libraries are famous for their huge notice boards and stacks for free papers. When you are new in town, it's an ideal place to hook yourself up with the local music, bar, and club scene – or whatever else floats your boat. If you are looking for a new college activity, browse the library board for those quality opportunities that are often free or low cost.

### **Free Entertainment**

Libraries can afford to subscribe to lots of magazines, and to license expensive software, all free to their members. They usually have a collections of novels, music CDs, and classic movie DVDs that let you avoid rental fees and become that well-read, cultured person you always hoped to be.

### **Learn How to Learn**

Librarians are a fantastic resource just waiting to share what they know. Why struggle with research skills? A librarian will be delighted to help you learn their catalog system and all the online databases and e-books the library can offer. Let them show you how to surf through all that information to make the most of your study time – then, tell all your friends!

<http://www.helium.com/items/1906347-things-to-do-in-the-college-library>