

St. Louis County Library

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Video Games Now Available for Checkout at County Library

The St. Louis County Library is pleased to announce a new circulating collection of video games available at four branches: Cliff Cave, Daniel Boone, Prairie Commons and Samuel Sachs. A trial collection of games for PlayStation 3, Xbox 360, and Wii are now available for checkout at these branches. Games included in the collection are rated G-General audience and some T-Teen audience. M-Mature games will not be included in the collection, and the Teen-rated games will be added at the Library's discretion. Video games will circulate for 7-days, and are non-holdable and not renewable. Fines are \$1.00 per day, with a maximum overdue fine of \$10.00 (similar to DVDs). Customers will be able to rent three games at a time.

Libraries across the country are starting to focus more on teen outreach. A March 22 article in the "New York Times" described the New York Public Library's "Game on @ Your Library" initiative. Jack Martin, the library's assistant coordinator for young adult services said, "What we're seeing is that in addition to simply helping bring kids into the library in the first place, games are having a broader effect on players, and they have the potential to be a great teaching tool. If a kid takes a test and fails, that's it. But in a game, if you fail you get to take what you've learned and try again."

In 2007 Teen Spaces were created at five St. Louis County Library branches: Cliff Cave, Daniel Boone, Indian Trails, Natural Bridge, Tesson Ferry. Teen Advisory Group members from each branch were instrumental in selecting furniture and in determining the overall design of the areas. Teens also had a voice in what sort of programming and materials they wanted to see at the library. As a result, several branches now host anime nights, karaoke competitions, coming drawing workshops, and film screenings. Additionally, items popular with teens have been added to the collection, such as graphic novels, cds, magazines, and now, video games.

For more information about teen events at St. Louis County Library, please visit www.slcl.org/teens/.

Program sites are accessible. Upon two weeks notice, accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities. Contact St. Louis County Library by phone 314-994-3300, (TDD\TTY) 314-994-9255 or visit www.slcl.org.

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