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Living Wright: Librarium a haven for bookworms during downtown library's renovations

■ Librarium a great space with fun amenities from library

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Posted: Thursday, September 5, 2013 12:00 am | Updated: 1:47 pm, Thu Sep 26, 2013.

JASON ASHLEY WRIGHT World Scene Writer | [0 comments](#)

I wanted it to be a Trader Joe's or a Crate & Barrel.

Liquor laws prevent the former, and my budget can't really afford the latter. Whatever went in there, I just hoped something useful would fill the vacant Homeland grocery store downtown.

Lo and behold, Tulsa City-County Library's Librarium opened in the spot at 1110 S. Denver Ave. this week while Central Library undergoes a two-year renovation. I'm trying not to focus on the fact that I'll be 40 by the time it's finished. Well, I was trying.

Anyway, I popped by during lunch on Wednesday - the first time I'd been in the building since a fateful run to Homeland for stuff to make green bean casserole, after



which I was in a fender bender. Good times.

But fenders, fried onions and cream of mushroom soup fled my mind immediately(ish) upon entering the Librarium, which sounds like a fun board game. The space is awesome, airy and sunlit, and it seems more like a cool bookstore.

First, I found a computer to request a hold on the documentary "Grey Gardens." I saw it on



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Netflix awhile back, but I'm itching to see it again. Probably to feel better about my house.

Everyone's fabulously helpful, including a lovely woman named Darla, who had apparently written me awhile back suggesting I try Arizona restaurant's salsa. As I'd misplaced my library card last month when switching wallets, Darla helped me.

I don't recall my hometown library having a kids section, so it's great that Librarium has a large one. While walking around, I spied a couple of moms with their kids, having a fun time.

Across the building was the Maker space, an interactive area for teens and adults to explore science, technology, engineering, art and math. Despite that last four-letter word, I was really intrigued.

Other perks include about 40 public computers, free Wi-Fi and Wi-Fi lounge, computer reservation station, automated book and media return, Seattle's Best Coffee self-serve vending, and the tablet lounge, which makes tablet computers available for in-library use for browsing digital newspapers and magazines.

You can also check out renderings of what Central Library will look like in a couple of years when it opens, and I'm excited to see what it will look like inside. For now, though, the Librarium is a great little bookworm's home away from home.

SUBHEAD: Librarium a great space with fun amenities from library

Original Print Headline: Bookworm haven

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