

Marvelous Makeovers & Merchandising

1. Borrow props to use in your displays – wheel barrel, ladder, paint cans. Give credit in display to the lender.
2. Display some books face out on shelves at eye level.
3. Use end panels.
4. Do a display with books that all have the same color of book jacket.
5. Ask a local artist or high school art class to paint a mural on a large empty wall.
6. Display framed artwork.
7. Display greenery or silk flower arrangements around the library.
8. Add a wallpaper border in your bathroom.
9. Install peel & stick vinyl squares to freshen up cracked and/or dark bathroom floor.
10. Cover bare light bulbs with inexpensive light fixtures.
11. Replace hand written signs with computer generated sign.
12. Ask local garden club to assist with landscaping.
13. Arrange your furniture as you would at home.
14. Shelves too tight and crowded? WEED!
15. Ask a local decorator to give suggestions for sprucing up the library.
16. Items on display will get checked out, can't get circulation from empty shelves – make sure all staff have responsibility for keeping “new book” and recommended reading shelves full and refreshed.
17. Rotate your displays on a regular basis.
18. Keep a list of displays used – it can spark other ideas to use and you can use popular displays again.
19. Is your library dark and dreary? Explore updating your lighting and number of lights. Increase bulb wattage where possible and safe.
20. Connect your display(s) to events and organizations in your community.
21. Do you display a copy of the NY Times best seller list? Can anyone read it from further than 2 inches away? When making your copy, increase the size so it is easily readable.
22. For bottom shelves which are difficult to access, replace with slanted magazine shelving and display books face out.
23. Does your library smell old and musty? Try some potpourri or stick air fresheners – just don't go overboard.
24. Drab bathroom? Paint with a light color – at the paint store ask for “mistake color” paint, which will be less expensive.
25. Mix things up in your displays such as relevant fiction, movies, and music. A Jane Austen-centered display, for instance, might include not only her novels and movies based on them, but also some Regency romances, books on Regency history, fashion, and art, CDs of music from the period, and biographies, of Jane Austen, the Prince Regent, the Duke of Wellington, and Admiral Nelson.