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Why I love the library!

The library has been a part of my life since the day I was born in 2003. My parents made the library and reading a part of our family life. I was born in Wilmington, North Carolina but moved and lived to South Florida for 7 years up to 2012. I currently live in a city called Hope Mills in Cumberland County.

I'm 10 years old and a home school 5<sup>th</sup> grader. There is not a day that we are not at the library. I have great memories of the libraries back in Florida and here in North Carolina. We utilize the research databases, exhibits, genealogy, books, audio, computers, summer programs and events. The librarians are so nice and quick to help. We visit on a regular basis that the staff knows our name. The library is an integral part of our homeschooling life. I tell my friends all the time that the library is a good friend that you don't neglect. My public, private and home school friends take it serious after they see how much you can get out of a library. I try my best to promote it to all my friends. I think back when I was only 2 years old and I learned how to work the computer from the Little Learners Lab for kids at the library. My Grandma Ray at the time was in awe that I can turn on a computer and navigate on the internet. She passed 5 years ago at 67 years old and never learned about computers.

Personally, the libraries over the years have fostered my love of reading books even more. It has made me a well rounded reader and speaker. I even volunteered a few years ago, reading to the younger kids at story time. I see that kids look up to other kids and want to copy them. There were parents that were there and they commented to my parents. They told them they I was a very good reader. They told my parents that they need to bring their kids more often and get them to be a good reader like Alizdair. Because of early reading skills, I started writing for a children's newspaper at 6 years old. I'm still a contributing writer and it's 2014. Also, I started debating last year and really had a great time with it. I love speaking in front of people and I love competing too. I had a few reports from my home school co-op classes and the books made it very easy to do my history report on Paul Revere. The internet is a good source but nothing beats a good book.

The future of North Carolina library can only keep moving up. The equipment, librarians, and programs are getting better each year. I hope for more programs during the school year and not just the summer months. It should be lots of programs year round to attract all people. I feel like any age can benefit from the library. I feel that the library has made it possible for people to learn things and not be ashamed to ask for help. Library is a helping hand to the community. It helps with kids and adults in school, college and even getting a

job. I will always use it and hope that it makes a difference in other people lives.