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Where would we be without reading? We no longer make the effort to appreciate it. But from the beginning of time, literacy has been a privilege. We all want a brilliant future for ourselves, and no resource helps us achieve that goal like libraries.

Without the library, I wouldn't have been as successful as a student so far; if the librarians weren't doing their amazing job and making sure everyone get the exposure to academic tools, job opportunities, work experience, or even have the opportunity to be involved in clubs. I am very grateful to have a resource that has taught me and my peers some valuable information.

The library has many programs that continue to impact the young and old. These lessons help all ages learn to use laptops & desktops. Most of all, these programs bring people together and will continue to influence people for generations to come. When I was a toddler, I loved going to story time at the library with my parents. My library journey started at Alvin Sherman Library at Nova Southeastern University in South Florida. This library paved my foundation for reading books.

As we continue to grow, we must not forget the importance of our libraries and the great impact that they have on our community. The library educates about art, literature, music, technology, and so much

more. It is important that libraries continue to strengthen our communities. More than just offering books, the library is a place where we gather to explore, interact, learn, achieve, and dream. The libraries are strengthening all generations and all people, and we must all understand the importance of all of the libraries in our hometowns. I am a sophomore at Cumberland International Early College High School and I constantly use my local library, Hope Mills Branch Library. I used it for recreational reading but also for school. The library is an excellent way to find sources for papers. For instance, this past Fall, I had to write a number of papers for my first college class and it was SOCI 150: The Global Society, and at least one of my sources came from the library. This is another way libraries build, connect and help all ages. It has been a great source for me throughout my fifteen years of life.

I started an individual community service project that I named "Operation Children's Center" over the summer of 2018 and I'm still working on it to date. The research at the library led me to contact the Cape Fear Hospital Valley Foundation. I contacted the foundation director, Mrs. Brittany, and asked what I can do to help the kids at the hospital. She gave me a list and I ended up collecting over 60 crayons and coloring books to date. Also, I received a sizable money donation over hundred dollars from local business. When these kids come out of surgery, they look forward to these items. This all came about from my research at the library. I'm very proud of this project.

To conclude, I believe that without libraries I would still be a well rounded person due to the values I have learned from my parents but I would not be the person I'm today without my involvement with libraries.