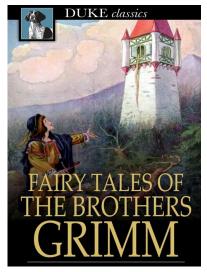
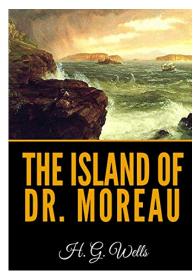
Princeton Public Library Book Club: Shifting To Discord





Although the Princeton Public Library's physical space is closed due to COVID-19, the library book club is alive and well after it was moved online. When the library book club began earlier in the year, librarians Morgan and Nora, wanted to create and host an in-person book club that would also help the library reengage with young adults in the community, offering a space for people to talk about literature, authors and book reviews to encourage more people to read.

However, like other groups that were forced to adjust during the pandemic, Morgan and Nora knew they had to relocate their book club discussions online. The question now was: Which online platform would be the best fit?

Discord was ideal. Morgan and Nora briefly considered Facebook and Meetup. However, many people, including Morgan, no longer use Facebook and to use Meetup, there's a fee. "Since the library relies on donations from private individuals and the public, it didn't make sense for us to choose a platform where we would have to pay to host our book club," Morgan explained.

After discussing the book club's needs, they both realized that Discord would be the right fit for their group to connect.

Morgan and Nora, Librarians at Princeton Public Library

Morgan had some experience with Discord before the pandemic, using the platform to stay in touch with friends. After discussing the book club's needs, they both realized that Discord would be the right fit for their group to connect. "We did a social media push to get more users to join our book club server, which was how Discord found us. After Discord posted about our book club on social media, more members began to join." Morgan received direct comments and messages from distant readers who saw Discord's post. Despite not even being from around Princeton, many wanted to participate, one from as far away as Switzerland!

Discord offers a valuable space for bibliophiles to connect. The book club currently has 70 members and hosts bi-weekly virtual meetings discussing everything from classics like *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, to fan favorites like *Grimms' Fairy Tales*.