

East Midlands Regional Reading Group Network

Books Connect

What are public libraries doing for reading groups in the East Midlands?

Whatever type of reader you are, and wherever you want to meet up with other readers, we can help you in a variety of ways.

Our minimum offer to reading groups includes an advice and referral service to put you in touch with existing reading groups or to help you set up your own. Your local library staff can help by providing a starter pack of information and support material and will recommend books for your group. You will also be advised about possible venues for meeting and shown online reader resources. This includes access to a national readers' group database. Some libraries provide collections of books for reading groups to use.

As individual authorities develop their services, provision across the region will expand, widening access, to support reading groups for adult learners, teenagers, children, families, visually impaired and old people - with reading groups adapted to their particular needs. Each local authority will consult with their community to provide reading groups in response to local demand, often working with partners such as Age Concern, Surestart or Youth Service.

By working together regionally, the 9 public library authorities in the East Midlands are taking part in a reading groups pilot project, which will become a national standard in the future.

The project will be evaluated, by both library staff and readers themselves, so that in 2 or 3 years' time we can show how library services in the East Midlands have improved their support for reading groups and plan effectively and creatively for their future.