Advantages of a Discord Book Club

- People only need to be invited once. They join the server and then they are already there for any future meeting/discussions.
- Your program can have synchronous AND asynchronous elements, which is GREAT for busy adults and teens who may not be able to make it on a specific day/time.
  - You can have monthly virtual meetings in the Voice Channels (they do most of the same things Zoom does).
  - Text Channels function as the chat would on zoom, but then can turn into more of a forum discussion.

Suggested Setup

All of this can be changed and customized to fit your vision of your book club.

Only librarians can post in these channels.

This channel would be for discussions about things unrelated to the books. You can add as many non-book channels as you want, but be careful of over-cluttering.

These channels are for book discussions. You can archive discussions at some point so people can no longer post, or leave them open indefinitely.

You can set these up so that they’re not even visible until the month you’re reading that book, so that people can see them but not post until the appropriate month, or just leave them open all the time.

The Voice Channel will be inaccessible most of the time, but open when you have your synchronous meetings. It has most of the same functions as Zoom or WebEx, but you cannot record.
The #welcome channel will have basic information about the book club and generally won’t ever change once it’s set up.

This is also a good place to establish any rules you might want to have for your program (although all the servers already have behavior guidelines).

The #announcements is pretty self-explanatory. Using the @Book Club role will send a notification specifically to people with that role. You can also @here and @everyone, but that’s generally considered poor etiquette unless it’s really important to everyone in the server.
In the #schedule channel, you can post titles, dates of synchronous discussions, and book covers. You can do it as shown, or post a list (either typed in the server or you can post an image with the list).

In the book discussion channels, it’s easy to share videos, links to interviews or discussion questions, and anything else that might be relevant.

Any of these things can be Pinned, so they are easy to find later.

The set up you’re looking at right now is in the library’s Sandbox Discord server. It’s where staff can experiment and learn about Discord. You can join and see how this is set up and get an idea for how you would run a book club by following this link: https://discord.gg/cjk4pSfH5p