

# Rooms that Rock

**Practical** Tips

for

**Library** **Space Planning**



# What percentage of the public thinks libraries are all about books?

(according to the 2010 OCLC Library Perceptions report)

50%

62%

75%

87%



# Libraries are *mostly* about:



Books & study

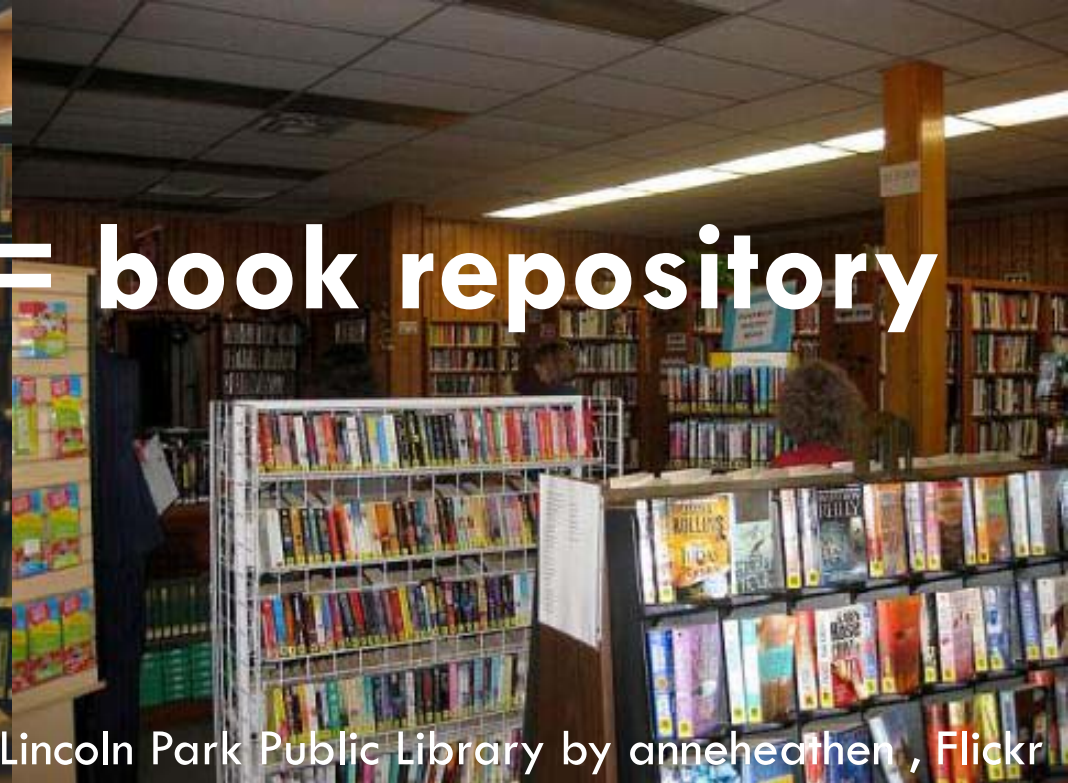
Community events  
& making things



# Library = book repository



Boston Public Library by Dan Kleinman, Flickr



Lincoln Park Public Library by anneheather, Flickr



Richfield Public Library by Utah State Library

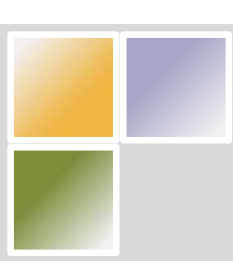


Snapshot Day Rapid City Public Library by RCPL



# A Bookless Library!





**“People may go to the library  
looking mainly for information,  
but they find each other there.”**

**place-  
making**

—Robert Putnam, *Better Together:  
Restoring the American Community*





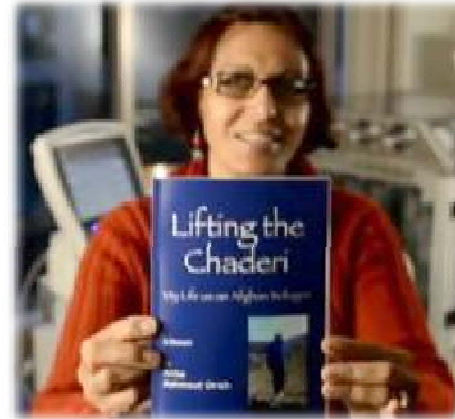
# IdeaBox at Oak Park Public Library



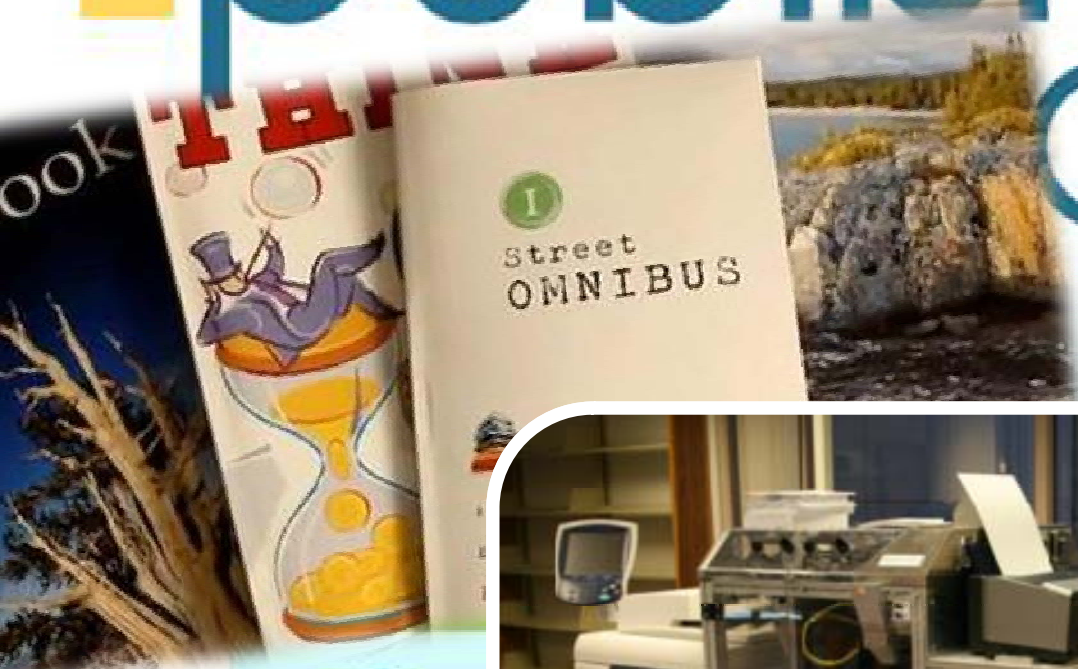
Photos from Oak Park Public Library on Flickr



I Street Press



publish at



street  
press

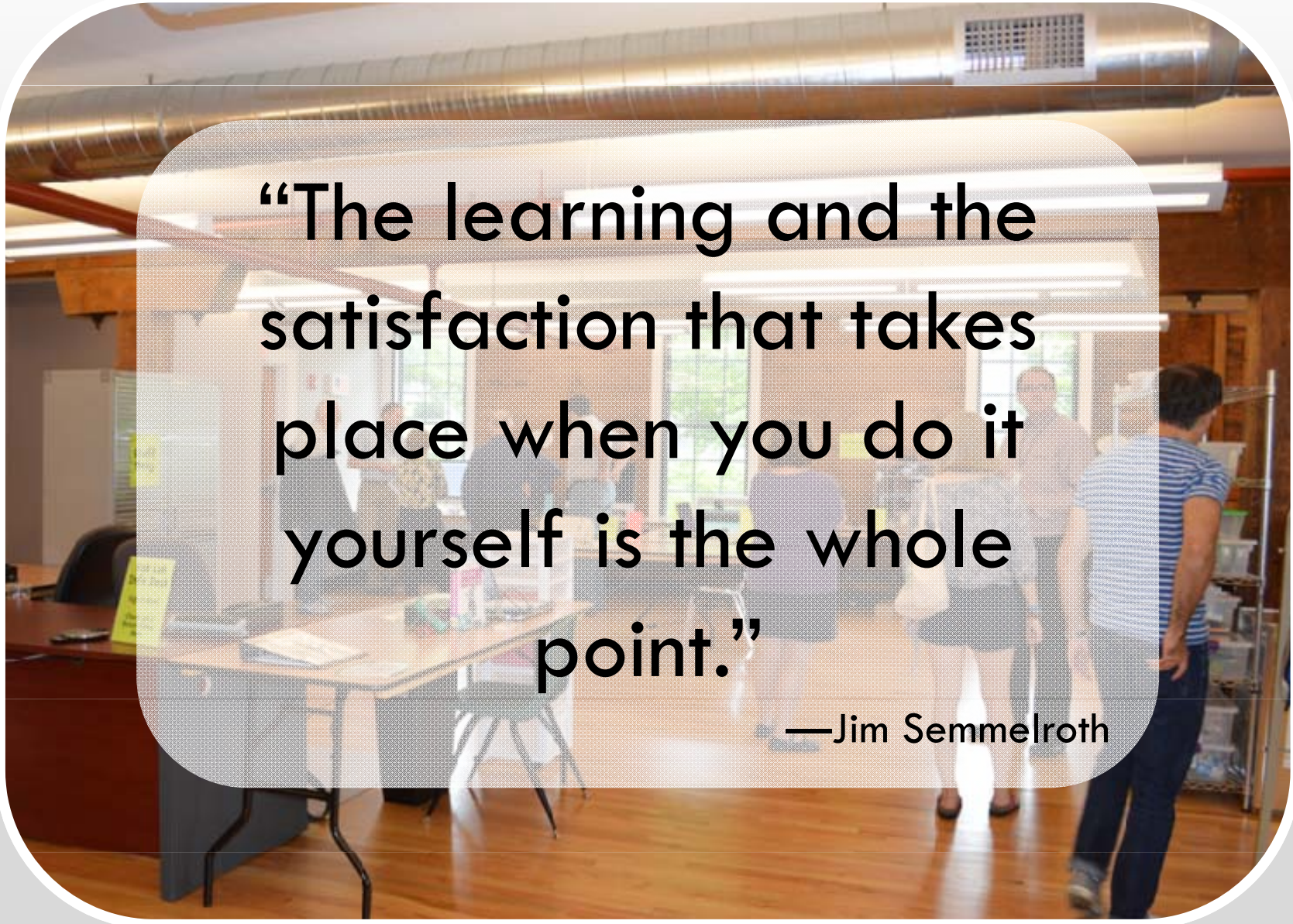


share your story

Sacramento  
Public Library



# Makerspace: Fayetteville Fab Lab




**“The learning and the satisfaction that takes place when you do it yourself is the whole point.”**

**—Jim Semmelroth**



# Makerspace: Westport Library



“Our whole library is a MakerSpace, but the 20' X 16' space in the middle of the library serves to SHOUT ‘Libraries are also about creating—not just consuming!’”

—Bill Derry





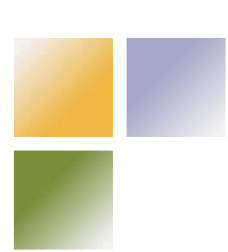
## Building capacity for community engagement

“Explore the evolution of physical space and services in the library to create opportunities that connect people with the community.”

### Pilot libraries:

- Bellingham Public Library (pop 82,000)
- Everson branch, Whatcom County Library System (pop 3,000)





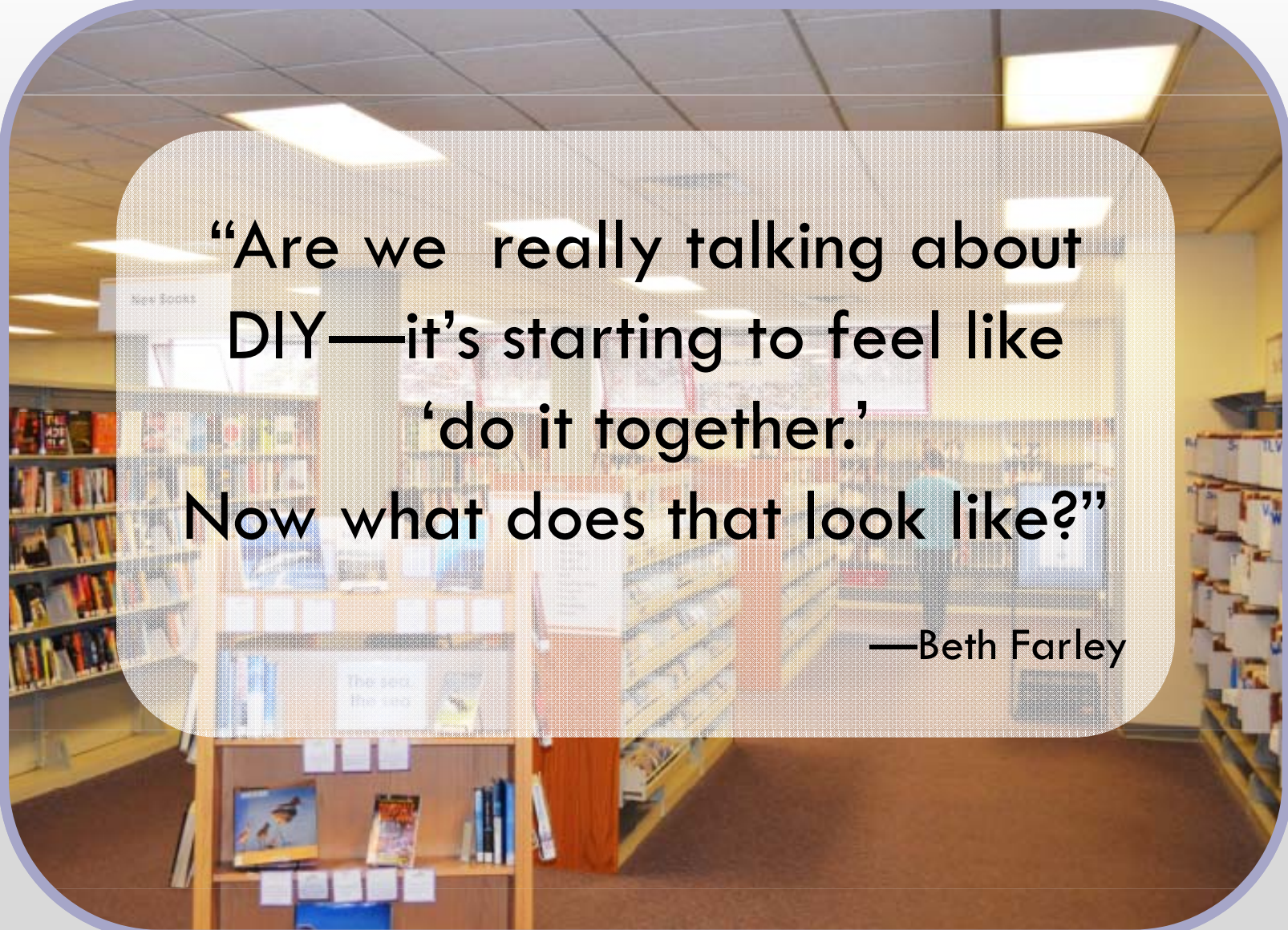
# **SkillShare**

## **Bellingham Public Library**

**READ LEARN MEET DISCOVER**



# Before SkillShare



“Are we really talking about  
DIY—it’s starting to feel like  
‘do it together.’  
Now what does that look like?”

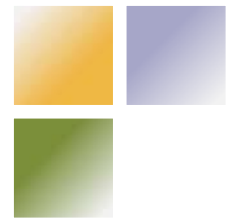
—Beth Farley



# Let the programs begin!



Tech coaching  
Creative crafting  
Qigong class



**Nooksack Valley Heritage Center**  
**Everson Branch**  
**Whatcom County Library System**





# Before the Heritage Center



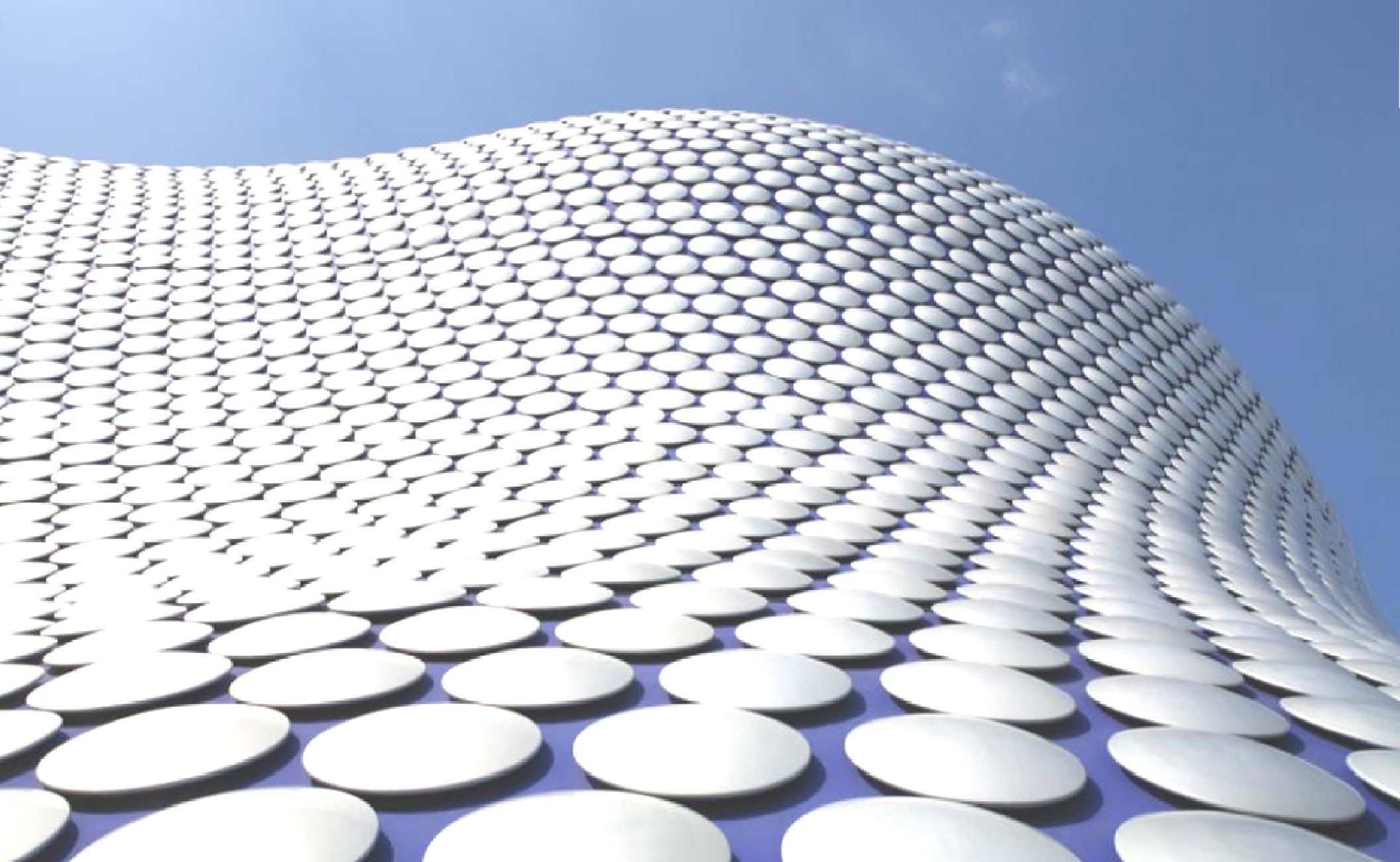


# Patrons using the new NVHC





# Explore your frontiers of space





# Image credits (not otherwise credited)

- BiblioTech in Bexar County TX  
<http://hutchandstuff.files.wordpress.com/2014/01/bookless-library-step.jpg>
- IdeaBox: photos from Oak Park Library on Flickr  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/oppl/collections/72157630548314758/>
- I Street Press photos from Sacramento Public Library
- FFL Fab Lab by Fayetteville Free Library  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/fayfreelibrary/9711111038>
- Westport Library makerspace from Library Journal  
<http://www.thedigitalshift.com/2012/10/public-services/the-makings-of-maker-spaces-part-1-space-for-creation-not-just-consumption/>
- BPL photos by Beth Farley
- Everson photos by Eileen Shaw





**Rooms that Rock**

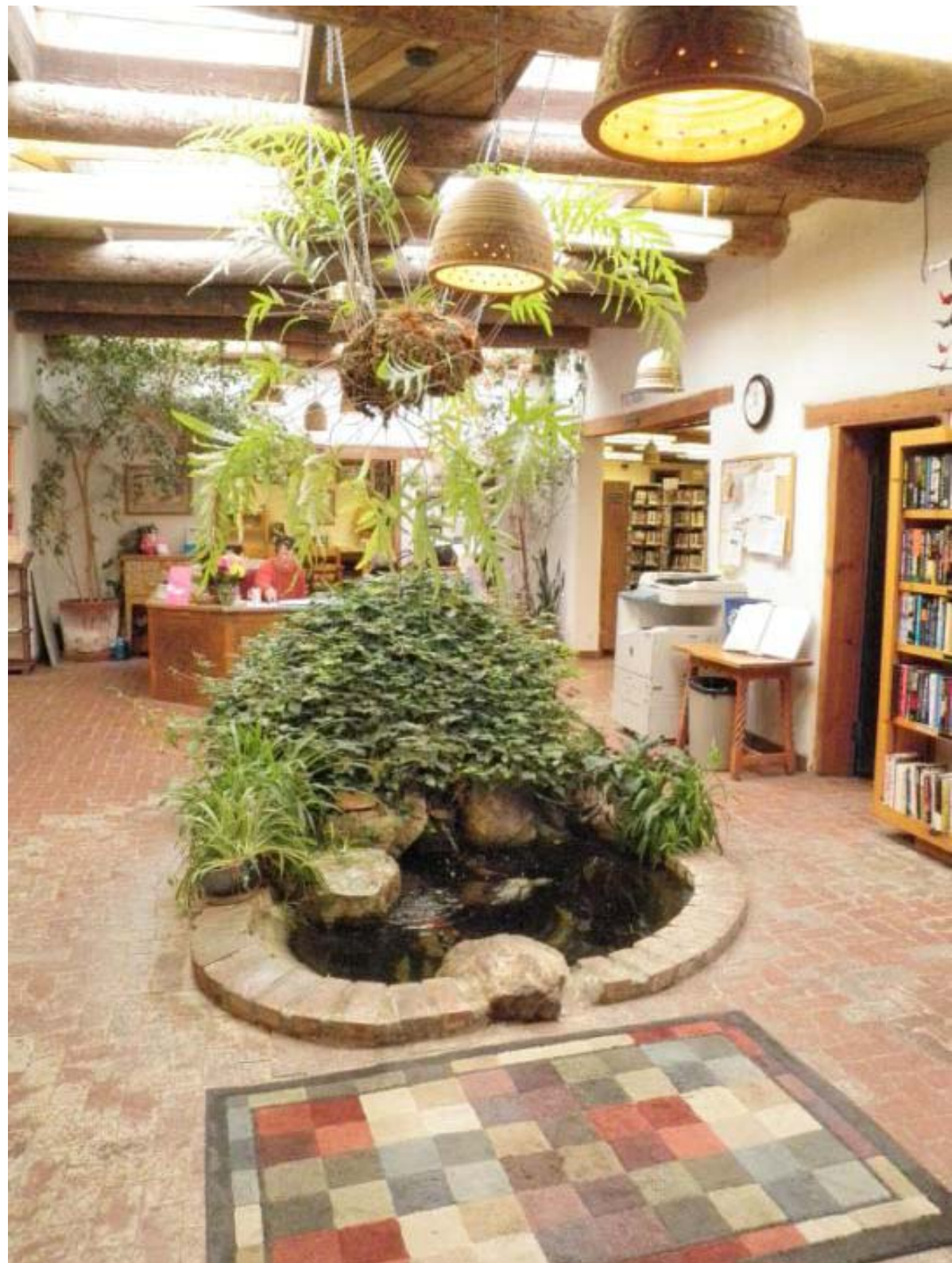
**Changes that**  
**Invite the Community In**

**Color,  
Light,  
and  
Signage**



# First impressions

Corrales Public Library,  
Albuquerque NM





# First impressions



Acocks  
Green  
Library,  
Birmingham  
UK



# Bold Color



Hoover Public Library by ESwift on Flickr



# Bold Color



Newcastle branch of KCLS (WA)





# Natural Light

Low shelving and a  
variety of seating options

Sechelt Public Library,  
Sechelt BC

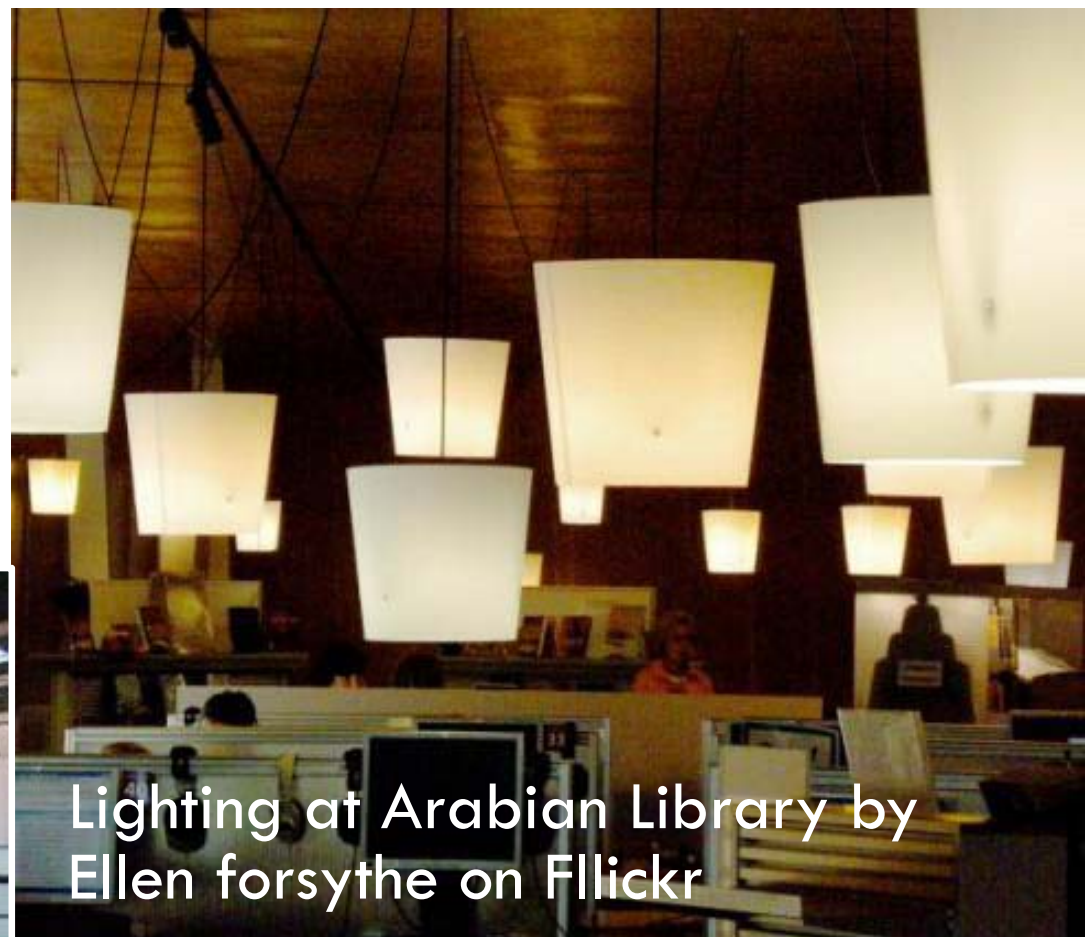
# Natural Light, but...



Before-Video and E Collection by Monterey PL on Flickr

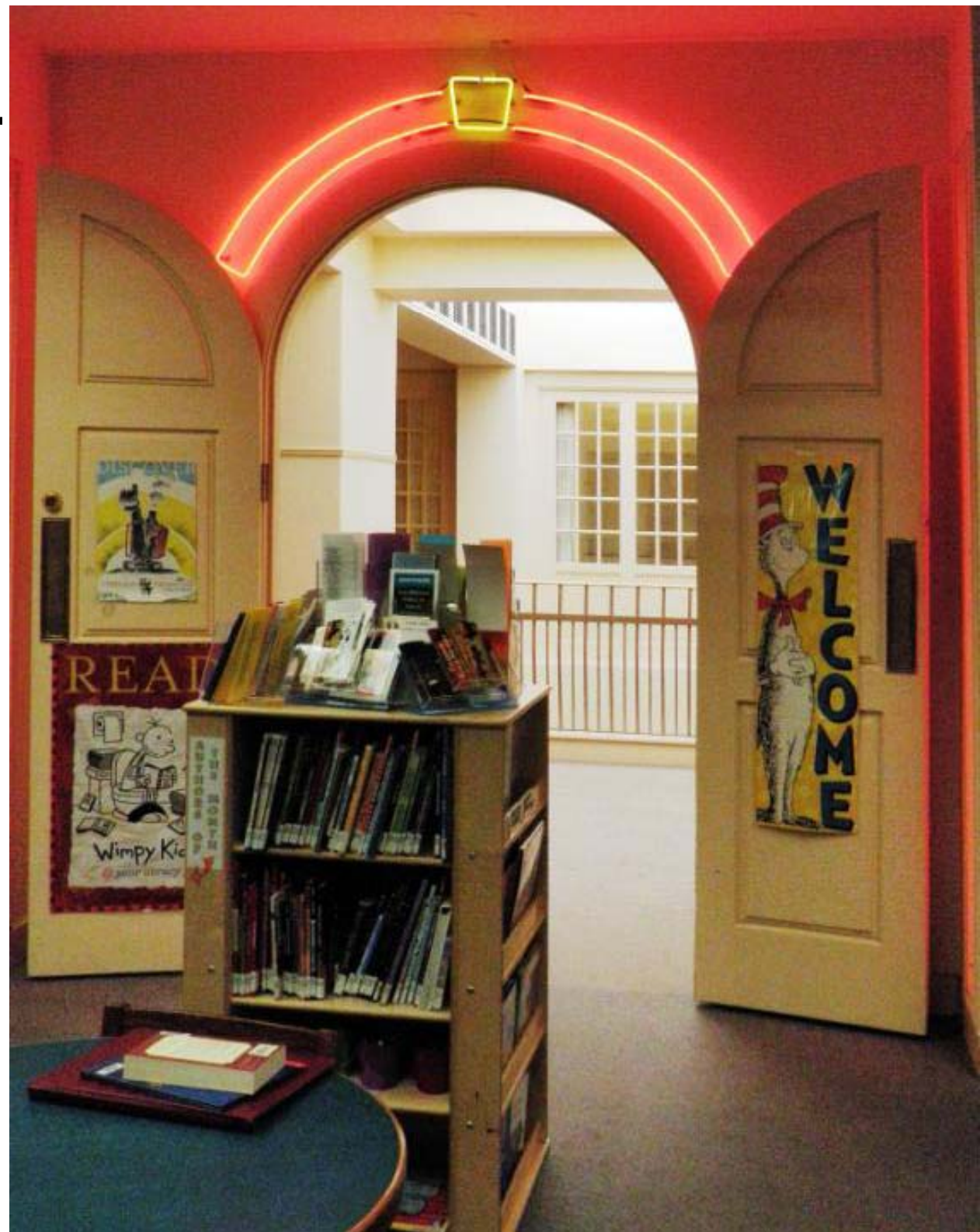


# Artificial Light





# Artificial Light



Santa Fe Public Library,  
Santa Fe NM





Signage:

why do  
kids and  
teens  
have all  
the sign  
fun?



teen entry by  
anneheathen on Flickr

Children's at Minneapolis PL  
by Schu on Flickr



## Signage for grownups

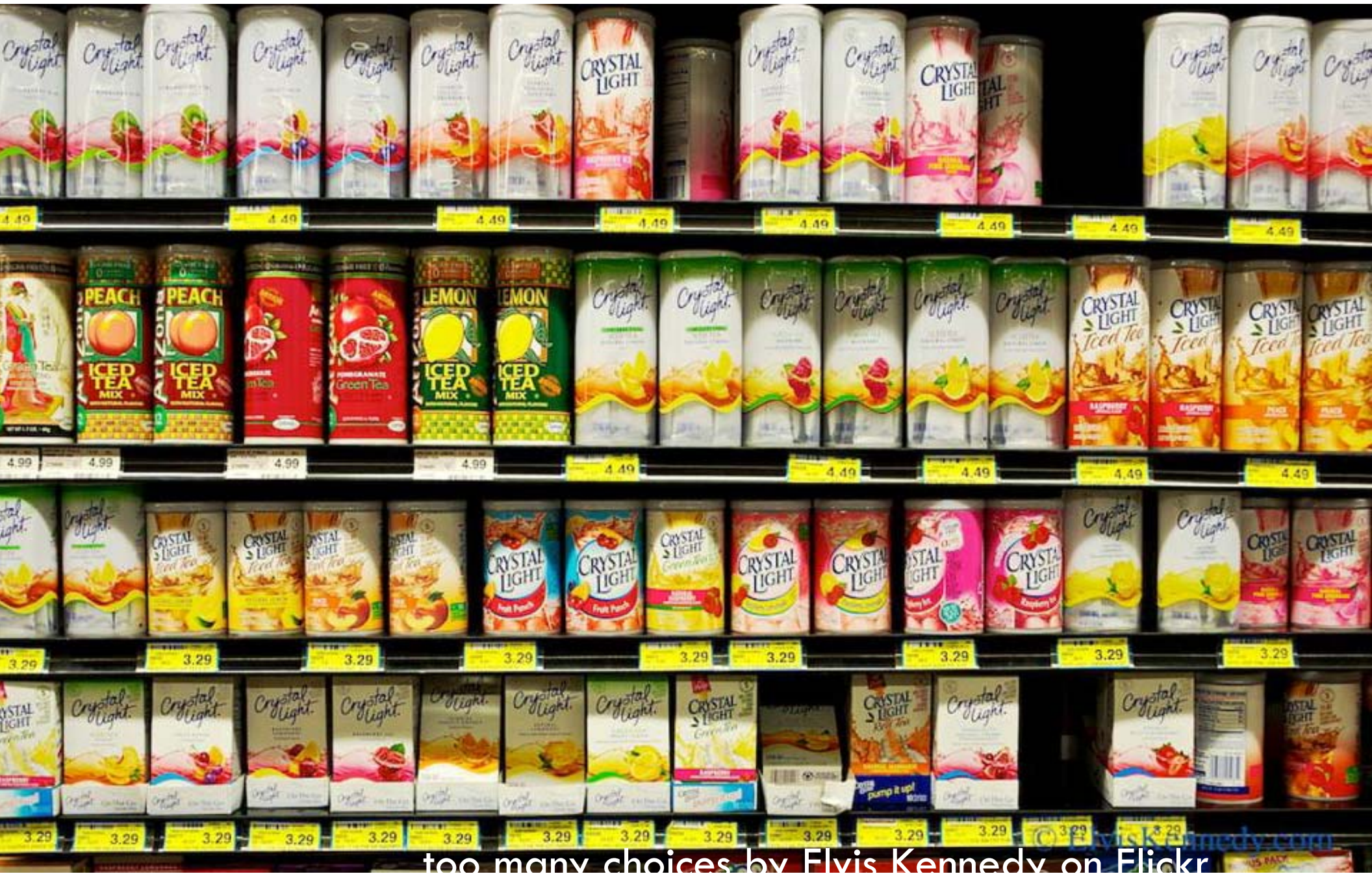
Un-library like signage by The Shifted Librarian on flickr



# Declutter and Diet



# Too many choices



too many choices by Elvis Kennedy on Flickr



# Too many choices?



5

items per  
square foot



# Before ...





and after transformation





# Flexible Use

# Flexibility: removing barriers



Get rid of “Fort Circulation”

...and other immovable objects



# Flexibility: multi-use space



The caster is your friend







Flexibility:  
wheels on  
everything





# Flexibility: makerwagon





# Flexibility: oh the noise and chaos



Holiday Tech Fair in the library



# Technology is all about power

Data and electrical connections everywhere



# What's wrong with this picture?





# Better?



But I don't have the skills...



Your community is your resource



But I don't have the money...



\$400  
media  
lab

# What do you need to let go of?

- “Fort Circulation” is necessary
- Activity and noise will disturb our patrons
- Projects get too messy and dirty
- Community events should be separate from the main library space
- The collection shall not be diminished
- No room to do anything new
- No money for innovation



# Everson Library floor plan

