21 Ideas for 21st-Century Libraries

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21+ Ideas for 21st Century Libraries

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Do today's libraries have to be all things to all people???

Places where education and recreation comes together.

Places that serve the community and the individual simultaneously.

Places where you can dig into a book, socialize, get a coffee, collaborate on a project, attend a class, and more…
A long time ago….  

There were libraries designed with books and tables. There was a librarian behind a desk to direct people where to go. Now we live in a new world and it is time to change the face of libraries one building at a time…
Libraries need to make choices.
Get user input & show them the possibilities.
Multiple formats – essential!

We Need Your Input!

Click here to complete the Central Library Visioning Survey

Teens! Click here to complete the Teen Space Survey for the Central Library

The Arlington Public Library announces the launch of a visioning process to determine what our community wants and needs from Central Library Services. We are also assessing the physical condition and future viability of the current Central Library building. An outcome of this project will be to determine how to ensure that our physical presence can provide the services and programs envisioned by our community.

This past December we held a Visioning Project kickoff meeting to which we invited community leaders and stakeholders. Our consultants, Providence Associates, gave a presentation to those attending on various aspects of the project. Since that kickoff event, our consultants have been very busy collecting data and are now ready to move along to the part of the visioning process where we ask for input from the community.

The Central Library hosted four open public meetings in April to gather input and comments from Arlington residents.
Make your library a place where people want to be...
…whether academic, public or K-12
“Refreshovations”

Rethink, restructure, rejuvenate
Create a shoppable library.
More mixed use – less tradition
Move beyond the “one space fits all ages” concept.

Build a library that works with ages 0 - 18 and fosters youth development at all stages!
As your community “grows up” the spaces they use should grow too.
Build Interactive, Zoned Children’s Spaces

And they will come!
Pre-school

Ages 0 - 4
Young School Aged
Ages 5 - 8
Pre-teen
Ages
9 - 12
Separate, Interactive Teen Spaces
Be flexible.

Grow, move, and change to fit ever changing needs.
Think...

FLEX Meeting Spaces

variety in size & function, flexibility, capability.
Whether large...
...or small.

These meeting rooms have it all!
No dedicated computer labs.
Casters let space move to accommodate different arrangements, events, etc.
Create rooms that move...
Think outside the box.
Collaboration is key.
Flexible & Adaptable.
Good signage & wayfinding make a library user friendly.
Eliminating jargon lets customers understand the library.
Digital Signage spreads messages quickly.
Take a practical approach to being “green”.
Space is a launch pad... for a lean, mean, service machine!
Big service desks be gone!
Smaller, non-cluttered kiosks encourage interaction!
Eliminate barriers between staff and users.
Supported Self-Service...

Provides fast & convenient access for checkout, holds pick-up, and more!
Drive up services add convenience.

Can I get fries with my fiction?
Vending

What users need...when they need it.
Fewer & smaller physical collections.
Uncommon collections.

What will the future hold?

Now Circulating:
Hand and Power Tools — Gila County Library District (AZ)
Fishing Equipment — Wood Library (NY)
Portable electricity meters — Boston Public Library (MA), Santa Clara County (CA)
Cake Pans — RI, NE, IA, NY...
Digital Creativity.

Expanding “literacy” and learning.

Digi-Dock™ at Frankfort Community Public Library (IN)
Interactivity.

Let users explore technology in new ways.
**THE JOB SEEKER**

**Bill Jones**

"I'm out of work and don't know how to begin searching for a job, I need help."

Bill is a 35-year old former plant worker living in New Oxford, Pennsylvania. When the recession hit the community of New Oxford, and the factory he worked for, Bill was one of several let go from his job due to budget cut backs. Now middle-aged, and entering the unemployment arena for the first time in over a decade, Bill must now take on the daunting task of searching for a new job during an increasingly difficult economy. Making matters worse, Bill only has a high school education and working in a plant for the past several years hasn't exposed him to much in terms of computers and technology, which puts him at quite a disadvantage when searching for work. After dipping well into his savings, Bill needs to find a new job and fast. He needs access to courses and training in technology that will ultimately make him more marketable as a job prospect, along with updates of the latest job openings in his area; his future depends on it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>35</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td>High School Graduate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCUPATION</td>
<td>Plant Worker - Currently Unemployed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TECHNICAL PROFILE</td>
<td>Not very tech savvy, Bill has a cell phone but uses it only for emergencies, more often than not the phone is off and either left at home or in his car. Bill has an old desktop computer mostly collects dust. He knows how to access the internet and draft e-mail, but he's not entirely comfortable with the process.</td>
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</tbody>
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**GOALS**

- Want a local library whose web site can supply me with up-to-date job postings & resources
- Find a library whose web site directs me to courses they offer in technology training and looking for a job in a technological world
- Find a new job. Resume writing & interviewing
- What courses do you offer in technology training?
- How do I access the information I am seeking through your web site?
- Can I access the latest job postings in my area through your web site?
- What resources do you have for researching the job market and for securing job?
- I haven’t looked for a job in over 10 years, I need people and resources that will help guide me through this ever changing process.
- I only have a high school education and lack training in technology. I need a web site that can help lead me to the training and education I need to make myself more marketable to prospective employers.

**FRUSTRATIONS**

- Access to the latest job postings in the area
- Access to courses in technology training
- Convenience

**INFLUENCES**

- Friends’ recommendations
- Word of mouth
- Advertising
- Pennsylvania public libraries
- Employment resources
- Technology training
- Home page
- Search engines
- Government/unemployment sites
- Job postings
- Technology training
- Advice on searching for jobs

**Persona-driven websites**
Please use your cell phones.
21st century assistance
Proactive Marketing
Look what we have to offer?
Community Partnerships

Open to Partnership
Programming, Programming, Programming...
Hire for attitude.
Train for skill.
Cross training.
Change “No” to...

YES
The Happiness Cycle

Happier Customers/Patrons

Happier Board ——> Happier Staff

More Money & Support
Thank you!

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