SPACE PLANNING WITHOUT THE SPACE:

Re-imagining Your Existing Library
Today’s webinar....
Review a multi-step protocol to help librarians organize their thoughts as to how an existing library space might be reconfigured to meet the service needs of today.

We are focusing on the space part but it begins with your understanding of the service needs of today....

...and tomorrow.

Our case studies....
Barrington Area Library, 60,000 sf, 1 big project
Evergreen Park Public Library, 20,000 sf, at least 4 phases

Our premise....
It’s a zero-sum game
DEFINE WHAT YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH

Big change, small change, loose change...

Services or collections to highlight?

Services or protocols to change?

Aesthetics to update?

Repairs to make?
ESTABLISH PRIORITIES

Planning in the broad context

Who gets input?
Who makes decisions?
Who has the money?
You are used to thinking of it like this...

Specific, detailed uses of defined spaces.
This is how the public experiences the building...

- **Turns**,  
- **Checkpoints**,  
- **Chokepoints**,  
- **Restrooms**,  
- “Bereavement center,”  
- **Floor to ceiling, wall to wall books stacks**,  
- **A room at the end with a fireplace that may or may not work**
UNDERSTAND HOW THE BUILDING IS PERCEIVED

This is how the public experiences the building...

Problematic Areas
N – Noise
C – Congestion
U – Use Patterns Conflict

Youth Services is too small
Teen Area is too open and in the wrong location
Need more power throughout the building
LOOK FOR THE UNDERUTILIZED SPACES

What spaces do not work as hard as you do?

Under utilized areas
1 – Administrative Zone
2 – Technical Services Work Room
3 – Conference Room
4 – Staff Lunch Room is oversized
Imagine the place empty

Try to thinking of it like this!
IMAGINE THE PLACE EMPTY

Or better yet....
IDENTIFY THE “HARD TO MOVE” STUFF

Identify what’s fixed in place vs what can be moved or changed

The front door
Structural columns
Emergency stairs
Mechanical chases
Restrooms
Power distribution can be a challenge in existing buildings.

- Columns
- The perimeter
- In-slab raceways
- Basements
Put the big blocks in the right place.
LET THE BUILDING SPEAK TO YOU!

Follow your service goals

A quick connection between entry and the “cool stuff”

A central activity node
Locate the service points.

Fill in based on those service goals

It's what your users do!
GO FROM THERE

Circulation convenient to entry

Public Service prominent

Computers visible

Seating where people like to sit

Collections deployed logically

Viewing stations, training lab bridge zones
CAN’T DO IT ALL AT ONCE?

FIRST FLOOR PLAN CONCEPTS

1. Reduce staff space by combining Work Rooms, Circulation, Youth, and Adult Services
   - 1A. 6 Total work stations
   - 1B. Open Circulation space
   - 1C. Interior Book/Media return room
   - 1D. Staffed Circulation Desk in support of Self-Check

FIRST FLOOR PLAN CONCEPTS

2. Make Arrival Zone larger and more engaging
   - 2A. Pull Circulation Desk back
   - 2B. Introduce “Value Added” Greeter
   - 2C. Provide Easy Self Service Holds
   - 2D. Provide Easy Self-Check Out
   - 2E. Expand Arrival Display

FIRST FLOOR PLAN CONCEPTS

3. Expand Youth Services by moving Young Adults and shifting main aisle east

4. Bring Periodicals to Arrival Zone
   - 4A. Extend Lobby feel (seating and merchandising into Periodicals)
   - 4B. Introduce Café style seating and face out display and art to promenade
CAN’T DO IT ALL AT ONCE?

Do the highest priority first....

5 Reorganize East Bay into a Young Adult Zone

5A Use Music and Video as active browsing and separator to define path to Reference Desk

5B Provide print collection outside of activity room

5C Define an activity room with operable glass panel partition to allow closed, partially closed or open wall. Develop this zone to as a multi-purpose activity room with sink to support other users when the young adults are not in the building.

5D Provide separate computers for Young Adults

5E Create new 2-person Study Room

5F Maintain existing 4-person Study Room

5G Seating

5H Supplement Quiet Reading with presentation capabilities
THIS CAN WORK AT YOUR SCALE...
THIS CAN WORK AT YOUR SCALE...
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THIS CAN WORK AT YOUR SCALE...
GOT QUESTIONS?

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