



www.rapidcitylibrary.org

DOWNTOWN • 610 Quincy St. Rapid City, SD 57701 • (605) 394-6139 or (605) 394-4171
NORTH • 10 Van Buren St. Rapid City, SD 57701 • (605) 716-4098

Date: September 27, 2016
To: RCPL Board of Trustees
From: Jim McShane, Library Director
Re: Updating the Public Areas

Summary:

In the 2016 budget, we currently have \$180,440 budgeted for this project. This includes:

- \$49,000 remaining in Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funds
- \$116,440 in the city and county line item budgets for replacement carpet, shelving, paint, and furniture.
- \$10,000 contingency fund

The projected cost for updating the public areas is \$170,862.

The updated public areas design, once approved by the Library Board, will focus on:

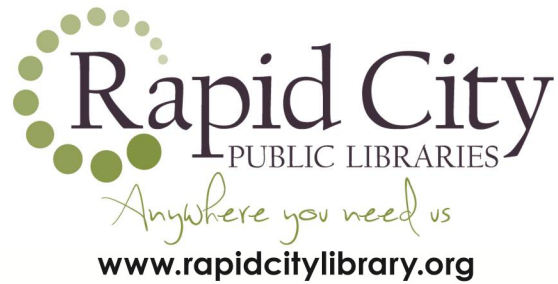
- **Ease of Use**
- **Improved Safety**
- **Flexible Spaces**
- **Long-term Sustainability**

Background:

Ease of Use

The new shelving arrangement will allow for easier location of library materials. The nonfiction collection will be organized into broad categories such as Cooking, Travel, Mathematics, etc. This is similar to how book stores organize material and this model has been pioneered by many other libraries across the nation.

The library will still be retaining Dewey number within those categories. This makes browsing simpler for those people (most) unfamiliar with the Dewey system while retaining the ability to readily locate a specific item.



DOWNTOWN • 610 Quincy St. Rapid City, SD 57701 • (605) 394-6139 or (605) 394-4171
NORTH • 10 Van Buren St. Rapid City, SD 57701 • (605) 716-4098

We already have two sections arranged this way: travel and cooking, and we found that circulation has increased **25%** for those collections in 2015. The following are excerpts from articles referring to libraries that have already undergone such a transformation.

Improved Safety

Currently, there are many areas in the library that are relatively hidden from staff working at service points. While, these areas are regularly monitored during the day, the proposed shelving layout improves sight lines for staff walking through the library and working at service points.

This will allow staff to more quickly identify and address behavioral concerns and maintain the library as a safe welcoming environment for all of the citizens of Rapid City.

Flexible Spaces

Libraries historically were more equally divided as places for gathering as well as collection. "The libraries Carnegie envisioned celebrated knowledge through both collection and congregation. Collections were concentrated in defined areas, while equal, if not more space, was dedicated to ornate reading rooms where the community could gather to share ideas." ("Experiences, not collections, define libraries of the future," *The Des Moines Register*, August 2016).

While libraries have always been community **gathering places**, the growth of digital collections and access provide an increased opportunity to fulfill that roll. By updating the public areas of the library we will be able to open large amounts of floor space for community use, programming, study rooms, and meeting rooms.

Long-term Sustainability

The library was last re-carpeted in 2006. Since then, high amounts of traffic have left frequently used areas looking worn and in many cases stained. By utilizing carpet tiles in the replacement for these areas, the library will be able to efficiently maintain an attractive and clean environment for all of its users.

In addition, an emphasis on classic, timeless and simple colors and features will be maintained. The intent is to avoid situations in which temporary design fads result in a dated appearance after only a few years. Instead, the library will focus on bringing in short-term art donations and displays to enhance the day to day experience of library users.



www.rapidcitylibrary.org

DOWNTOWN • 610 Quincy St. Rapid City, SD 57701 • (605) 394-6139 or (605) 394-4171

NORTH • 10 Van Buren St. Rapid City, SD 57701 • (605) 716-4098

"Today's libraries are reinventing themselves as vibrant town squares, showcasing the latest best sellers, lending Kindles loaded with e-books, and offering grass-roots technology training centers. Faced with the need to compete for shrinking municipal finances, libraries are determined to prove they can respond as quickly to the needs of the taxpayers as the police and fire department can." ("Libraries See Opening as Bookstores Close" *NYT*, Dec. 27, 2012)

Arizona Libraries: "No one seemed to notice" that they were not using Dewey classification anymore. "So far, Perry hasn't received one negative comment. In fact, the response has been so overwhelmingly positive..." [*School Library Journal* July 2007]

Darien, CT: A mother's reaction to the new layout: "The books everywhere, but especially in the children's room, have been shelved, labeled, and organized in a way that makes me feel less like a moron and more empowered to find what I'm looking for on my own." [*Library Journal* October 1, 2009]

Frankfort Public Library District: "Is this an attempt to become a bookstore? Well, we're not in the business of selling information and content, but we want to encourage patrons in our library to feel the way they feel when they are in bookstores—enjoying the browsability of materials and utilizing our space to gather with friends and colleagues." [*ILA Reporter*, June 2009]

Bayside Library Service Victoria: "Why do people have so much trouble finding things in libraries? Their difficulty may be partly caused by having to negotiate a large collection in order to find the small part in which they are interested. Research shows that the larger the collection a user has to deal with the higher their chance of suffering information overload." [*Aplis* 20(1) March 2007]

Maricopa Co. Library District, Arizona: "Books are shelved in neighborhoods based on subject matter... Books displayed in neighborhoods are easier for customers to find, browse, and discover other titles that pique their interest. The results are happy customers who check out more materials, expand their reading interest, and return for more, prompting double-digit increases in circulation numbers." "And Dewey isn't just a relic; it keeps people out of the library. They fear it. It intimidates them. It's not well-suited for browsing, which is where the majority of circulation comes from."— *nom-degr*.livejournal.com [*Public Libraries*, July/August 2010]