

american libraries

MARCH/APRIL 2012

THE MAGAZINE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

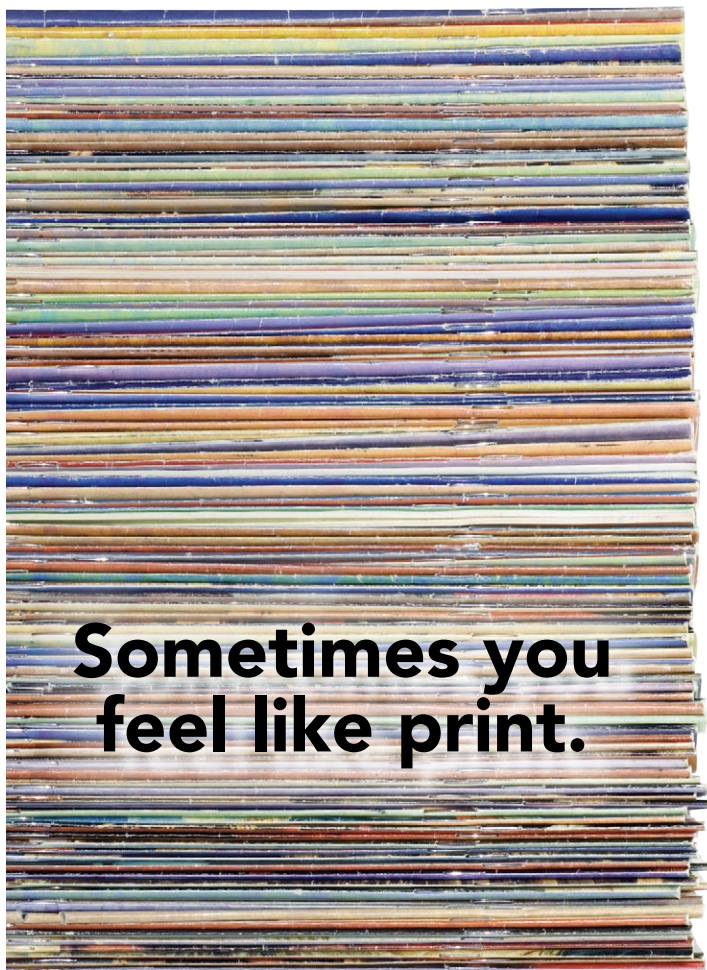
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2012 Library Design Showcase

PLUS

- Anythink's Economic Impact





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Libraries and Community Rejuvenation

by Greg Landgraf

As the economy (slowly) recovers from the Great Recession, the theme of rejuvenation has been on my mind, and never more so than as I was working on the 2012 Library Design Showcase.

This year's edition is the largest in recent memory, featuring more than 100 new and recently renovated buildings. We know that libraries provide big economic dividends to the communities they serve, and the large number of construction projects is an encouraging sign that our communities are getting the message as well.

Sixteen buildings are featured in this digital supplement. View the

We know that libraries provide big economic dividends to the communities they serve.

full Library Design Showcase, with more than 150 outstanding architectural photos, at americanlibrariesmagazine.org/librarydesign12.

In producing this year's showcase, I was struck by how many submissions highlighted their roles in economic develop-

ment. Of particular note on this front were the several libraries that bring new life to existing but disused structures. These include Jackson (N.H.) Public Library, which partnered with the local historical society to reerect a dismantled 1850s barn for use as the new library building; Tom Green County (Tex.) Library System, which took over a downtown department store that had stood vacant for 20 years for the new Stephens Central Library in San Angelo; and the Scotts Valley branch of Santa Cruz (Calif.) Public Libraries (featured in this supplement on page 9), which occupies an abandoned roller rink while serving as an anchor for a new town center.

The benefits of libraries aren't limited to the services they provide, however, as Stacie Ledden details in "The Economics of Anythink" on page 14. Rangeview Library District in Adams County, Colorado, has become known for its innovative Anythink brand over the past few years. The rebranding—and the capital construction projects it included—didn't just energize the library system. It also had both direct and indirect impact on the local economy by putting people to work in construction, creating destinations that attract people who go on to spend at nearby businesses, and partnering with local businesses to offer enhanced services within library locations. I hope Ledden's article can serve as a model for other libraries seeking to make a case for the economic benefits they provide their communities. ■

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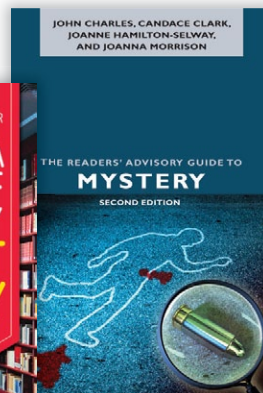
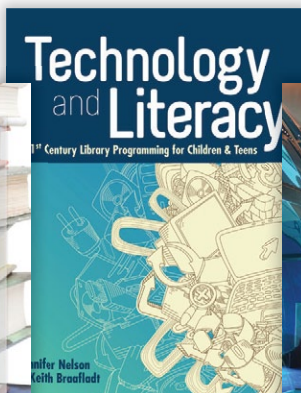
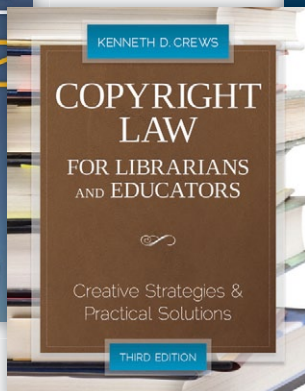
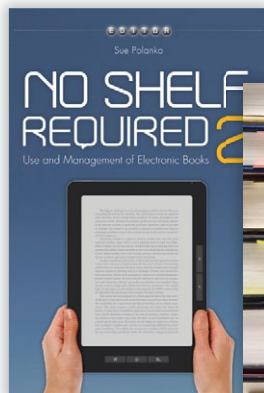
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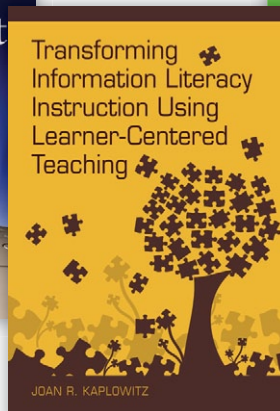
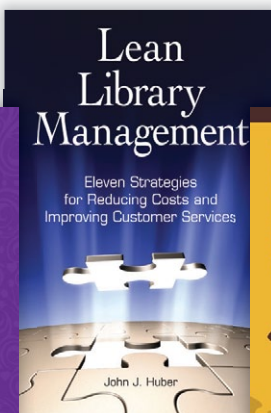
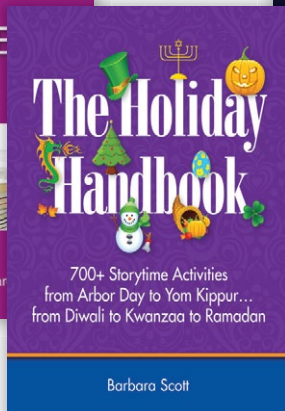
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By Greg Landgraf

New & Now

The following pages contain excerpts from the 2012 Library Design Showcase. See more new and renovated buildings at americanlibrariesmagazine.org/librarydesign12.



DELAWARE COUNTY (OHIO) DISTRICT LIBRARY, ORANGE BRANCH

Daylight harvesting and chilled beam technology help reduce energy consumption at the Orange branch. Materials include locally sourced blue-vein stone and Forest Stewardship Council-certified Douglas fir. The building offers special parking for low-emission vehicles.

New Construction
Dewberry, www.dewberry.com
Size: 33,000 sq. ft.
Cost: \$8.9 million
Photo: Brad Feinknopf

SUFFOLK COUNTY (N.Y.) COMMUNITY COLLEGE, EASTERN CAMPUS LIBRARY

Flexible options throughout the Eastern Campus Library support different learning styles. The library boasts both group-study rooms and individual-study carrels, as well as group-work tables with multiple seating options. Two heavily used information-literacy classrooms have centrally placed worktables and computers around the perimeter to accommodate both group discussion and individual work.

New Construction

JCJ Architecture, www.jcj.com

Size: 33,000 sq. ft.

Cost: \$14.5 million

Photo: Paul A. Turano, SCCC

The addition to the University of California at Berkeley's law library included a rooftop garden above a three-story structure. Two of those stories are underground, but skylights direct natural light down to them from the plaza level. The project also created a new west-facing terrace that connects to an existing plaza, which serves as a key campus meeting point.

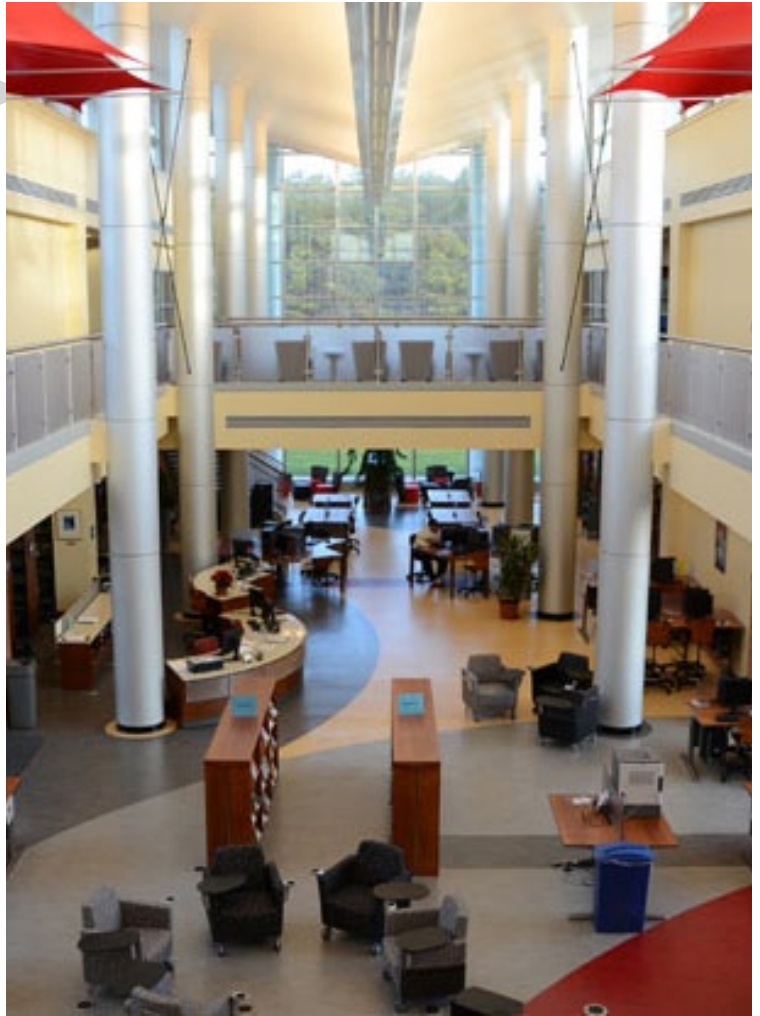
Renovation and Expansion

Ratcliff, www.ratcliffarch.com

Size: 104,000 sq. ft. total, 55,000 sq. ft. expansion

Cost: N/A

Photo: Tim Griffith, Steve Whittaker



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY SCHOOL OF LAW LIBRARY





COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY, WEST HOLLYWOOD LIBRARY

The bamboo-coffered ceiling of the upper floor of the West Hollywood Library conceals light and mechanical equipment and mitigates ambient sound. The facility also includes a children's theater housed inside a facade designed to look like a crate delivered as a gift, and a wood-and-glass-enclosed West Hollywood Room that archives city history.

New Construction

MDA Johnson Favaro, www.johnsonfavaro.com

Size: 33,150 sq. ft.

Cost: \$35.1 million

Photo: Johnson Favaro/Fotoworks



CENTRAL RAPPAHANNOCK REGIONAL LIBRARY, ENGLAND RUN BRANCH, FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA

Most of the teen book collection occupies the wave wall, which has seating built in to encourage teens to get lost in a book. An adjacent lounge with vending machines allows for socializing without bothering other patrons. Younger children have a dedicated room with early-literacy materials, a hobbit-hole entrance they can slide through, and a crawler's corral designed for babies and toddlers.

New Construction

The Lukmire Partnership, www.lukmire.com

Size: 30,775 sq. ft.

Cost: \$10.5 million

Photo: The Lukmire Partnership

TERREBONNE PARISH LIBRARY SYSTEM, NORTH BRANCH LIBRARY, HOUMA, LOUISIANA

The North Branch Library boasts 36 public computers, as well as a lab with 12 more workstations for computer classes. Two meeting rooms each have LCD projectors and screens, as well as internet capability. Wireless is available throughout the facility, including in meeting rooms and on two reading decks, and some of the seating options are specially designed to incorporate laptops.

Renovation and Expansion

Cheramie + Bruce, www.cb-arch.net

Size: 26,000 sq. ft. total, 12,000 sq. ft. expansion

Cost: \$5.7 million

Photo: John R. Cornes

Patrick Heath Public Library celebrates its Texas Hill Country setting with glass walls that capture scenic views and shade from live oak trees. A terrace and covered patios offer space for outdoor programming, while the conference room has a private balcony. The library provides bike racks, changing rooms, and preferred parking spaces to encourage alternate forms of transportation, and it harvests rainwater and reuses HVAC condensate for landscape irrigation.

New Construction

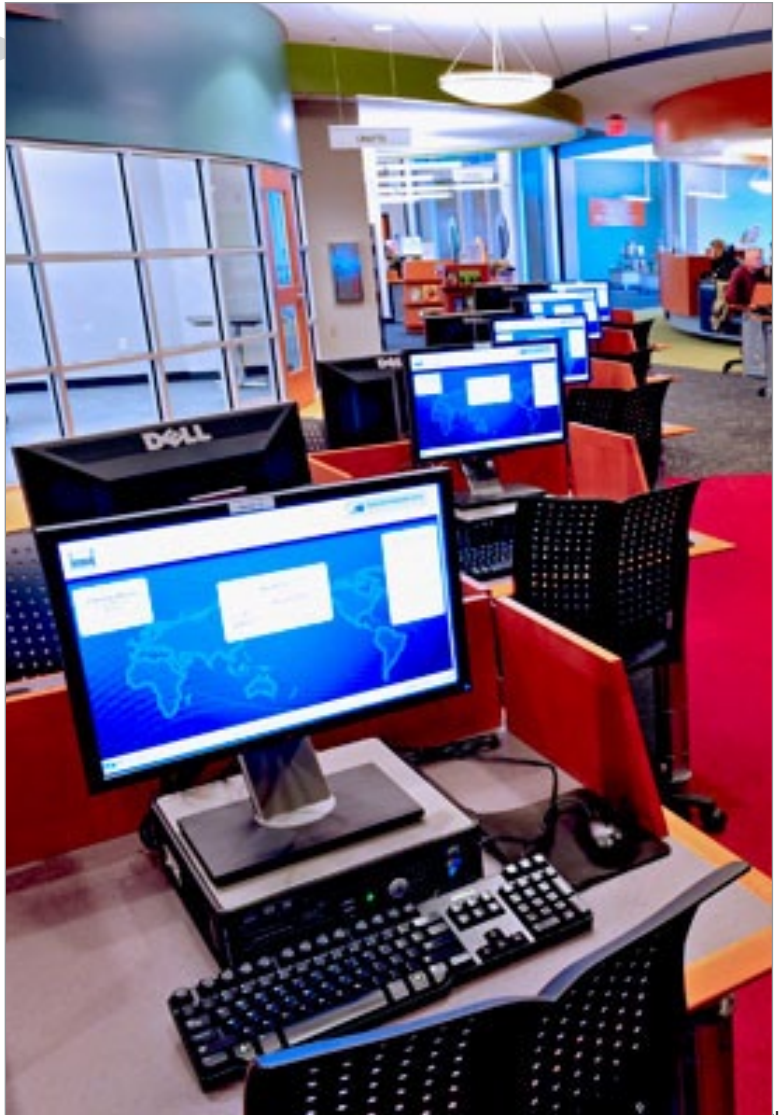
O'Neill Conrad Oppelt Architects, Inc.,

www.ocoarchitects.com

Size: 30,000 sq. ft.

Cost: \$5 million

Photo: Mark Menjivar



PATRICK HEATH PUBLIC LIBRARY, BOERNE, TEXAS





MCALLEN (TEX.) PUBLIC LIBRARY, MAIN LIBRARY

A patterned wood soffit runs the length of the McAllen Public Library building, defining a central service spine for program areas to branch off from. The library is divided into quadrants, with community meeting rooms, the children's library, adult services, and the staff area each occupying one corner. Most of the building, which was once a Walmart, is painted white to provide a neutral shell for service areas to be defined with color.

Renovation

Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle Ltd., www.msrltd.com

Cost: \$14 million

Size: 124,500 sq. ft.

Photo: Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle Ltd.



KENAI (ALASKA) COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Kenai Community Library was designed to be simple and elegant throughout, including the children's space, where letters are built into bookshelves. Brightly colored materials define different spaces within the library, while windows and above-head lightboxes incorporate daylighting into the interior.

Renovation and Expansion

ECI/Hyer, Inc., www.ecihyer.com

Size: 20,000 sq. ft. total, 10,000 sq. ft. addition

Cost: \$5.2 million

Photo: Chris Arend Photography

SANTA CRUZ (CALIF.) PUBLIC LIBRARIES, SCOTTS VALLEY LIBRARY

The city of Scotts Valley refurbished a former indoor roller rink located in a redevelopment district for use as its new public library. The building is the first civic project in the city's new town center. Suspended polycarbonate "lanterns" introduce natural light into the library and define programmatic spaces. The roller rink's raised platform and booth seating inspired the teen space, providing space for both independent and collaborative work.

Renovation

Group 4 Architecture, Research + Planning, Inc.

www.g4arch.com

Size: 13,500 sq. ft. library, 22,600 sq. ft. total

Cost: \$2.7 million

Photo: Technical Imagery Studios



The main branch of New York Public Library opened in 1911 and was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1965. A three-year preservation project repaired more than 7,000 instances of deterioration or distress in the 150,000-square-foot facade. It also cleaned the facade's Vermont marble and restored the roof, sculptures, bronze doors, and window frames.

Renovation

Wiss, Janney & Elstner Associates, www.wje.com

Cost: \$48.9 million

Photo: Jonathan Blanc

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY, STEPHEN A. SCHWARZMAN BUILDING





JACKSON COUNTY (N.C.) LIBRARY

Jackson County Library renovated a 100-year-old courthouse and added 20,000 square feet that connects to the original building by a glass atrium. A special challenge to the project was the restoration of the building's signature cupola, which had to be removed during construction and suffered water damage from significant rainfall in the initial stages of construction.

Renovation and Expansion

McMillan Pazdan Smith, www.mcmillanpazdansmith.com

Cost: \$7.3 million

Size: 26,000 sq. ft. total, 20,000 sq. ft. expansion

Photo: Rion Rizzo/Creative Sources Photography, Inc.



FORT VANCOUVER REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT, VANCOUVER (WASH.) COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Vancouver Community Library's Early Learning Center fills more than 4,500 square feet with 20 interactive structures and hundreds of interactive play elements. The space is broken down into five zones: Land of Imagination, River Zone, Light Tower, Resource Center, and Mechanical Artworks. Each zone offers layers of shapes, colors, and interactions so parents and children can discover new activities on subsequent visits. Activities in the space spotlight every letter, as well as preliteracy skills.

New Construction

Miller Hull Partnership, LLP, www.millerhull.com

Children's Area: Burgeon Group, www.burgeongroup.com

Size: 83,000 sq. ft.

Cost: \$40 million

Photo: Burgeon Group LLC

PLAINFIELD (N.J.) PUBLIC LIBRARY

A rain forest theme carries through the renovation of Plainfield Public Library's Children's Library, which serves a community with no movie theater or themed recreational sites. Thatched huts provide quiet reading areas, while a built-in puppet stage is camouflaged within a 60-foot rain forest mural. The space can also accommodate up to 80 children viewing movies on a drop-down screen without rearranging furniture.

Renovation

Dennis Kowal Architects,

www.kowalarchitects.com

Size: 44,000 sq. ft. total, 5,000 sq. ft. renovated

Cost: \$600,000

Photo: Peter Rajcevic



BRIDGE CITY (TEX.) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY

Serving pre-K through 2nd-grade students, the new interior of Bridge City Elementary School Library incorporates the school's cardinal mascot and a transportation theme. Features include a storytime stage, a clock tower that houses a puppet theater, and an exterior transportation-themed mural printed on durable eight-foot panels.

New Construction

Architect: Mark Magnuson & Associates, Inc.,

www.magnusonarchitects.com

Design: Creative Arts Unlimited,

www.creativeartsinc.com

Size: 3,662 sq. ft.

Cost: \$225,000 (library elements only)

Photo: Contrax staff photographer

C. A. MCMILLEN HIGH SCHOOL, PLANO (TEX.) INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

The McMillen Library offers casual reading spaces, areas for individual and collaborative study, and support for technology through charging stations and laptop trays built into soft seating. Panoramic windows connect the library to the hall commons, inviting students into the space that features 22-foot-high ceilings and a fluid design composed of rounded, soft shapes.

New Construction

SHW Group, www.shwgroup.com

Size: 6,400 sq. ft.

Cost: \$37 million (entire school)

Photo: bkm Total Office of Texas



Meyer Scherer & Rockcastle, LTD

"The public has responded so well to the new building. They're making use of the entire facility. There isn't a space that's not being used, and there isn't a service that hasn't been taken advantage of."

— Jose Gamez, Director, McAllen Library
(*The Monitor*)



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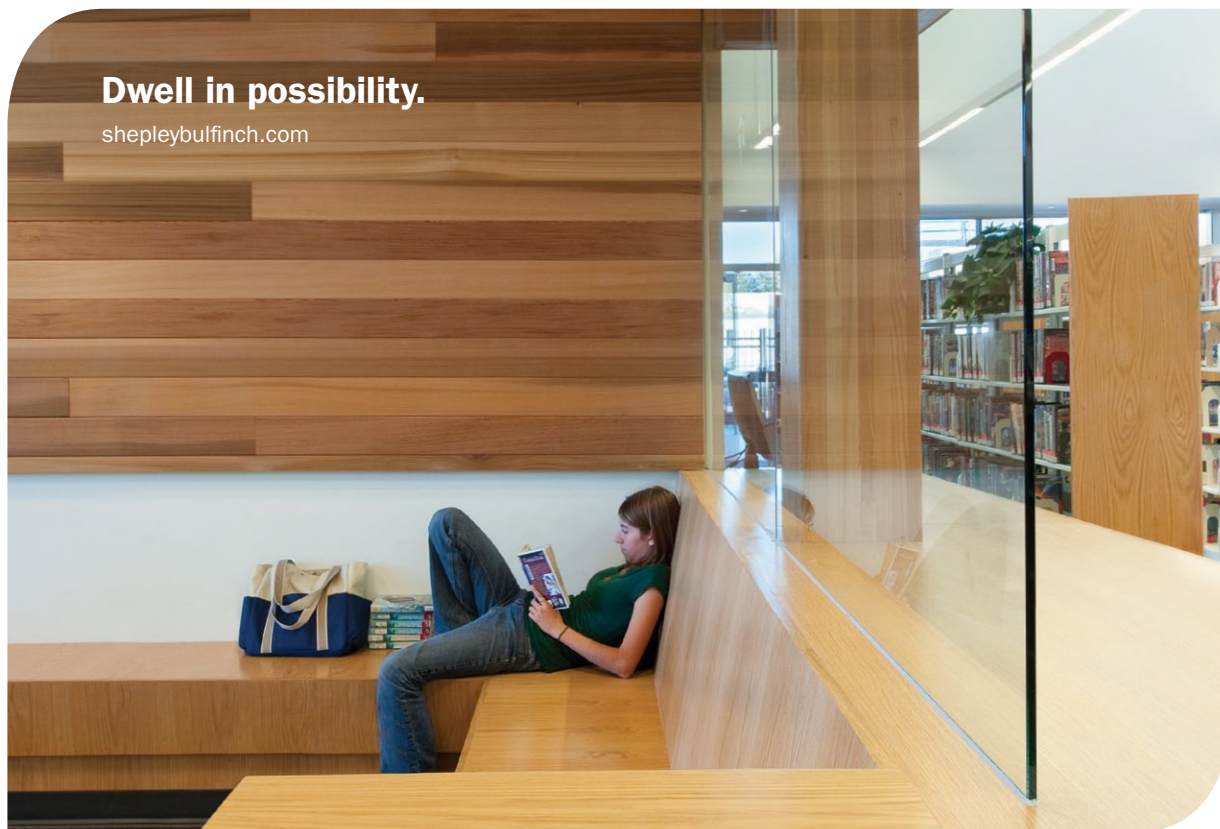


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THE Economics OF Anythink

By Stacie Ledden

A library's revitalization has direct
economic benefits for its community



Education, access, and freedom of information are all worthy reasons to fund public libraries. Yet rarely is the economic ripple effect of these institutions touted as part of a library's worth. The revolution at the Rangeview Library District in Adams County, Colorado, which included seven new or renovated branches and the creation of the Anythink brand, has directly affected hundreds of lives by putting people to work—and that's above and beyond customers finding jobs using library computers, attending job seminars, and gaining the knowledge they need to succeed.

"The impact the library's capital construction project has had on the Adams County community is significant," said Erik Hansen, Adams County commissioner and former mayor of Thornton, the county's largest city. "Any time we can educate our residents, we're making a huge economic impact. What [Anythink Libraries] is doing is really important and something the residents of Thornton should be proud of."

If you build it, they will work

The library's capital construction projects from 2008 to 2011 were not only a huge boon for library customers who got beautiful, state-of-the-art facilities, but also for the struggling construction industry.

For Humphries Poli Architects and their partners, the projects employed an average of 18.5 people over the course of each project, a figure that includes architects, engineers, energy consultants, and interior designers.

Denver contractor Fransen Pittman worked on the four new library buildings, along with a total of 100 subcontracting companies and an average of 38 subs on each project. The number of individuals who worked on these projects—from electricians to landscapers to project managers—tops off in the hundreds.

"The Anythink library projects at Brighton, Huron Street, Bennett Farms, and Wright Farms had a positive effect on Adams County and Fransen Pittman when our economy was in an increasingly negative place," said John Pittman, president of Fransen Pittman. "The four library construction projects helped the local economy by putting Adams County and many other nearby community people to work and set an encouraging example for other libraries around the United States."

Creating destinations

Justin Sager, former project manager with Wember, Inc., worked with the library district for five years. He was integral in ensuring the capital construction projects ran



A sizable crowd turned out for the ribbon cutting at Anythink Wright Farms.

smoothly and said he believes strongly in the mission of the library and its impact on local communities.

"One of the benefits—and at Wright Farms specifically—is that we've created a destination in a part of the city people just passed through before," said Sager. "This benefits surrounding local businesses in addition to raising the quality of life for people who live in this neighborhood." The same thing can be said for the new Anythink Brighton library, which was built in a neighborhood the city is working hard to revitalize. Brighton City Manager Manuel Esquivel said, "We haven't done an analysis of the economic impact of the library and the Brighton Cultural Center to the economy, but the two together have certainly attracted people to the downtown area for enjoyment, especially to the restaurants in the area."

The district collaborates with many local organizations and municipalities to enhance its services. Partnering with local businesses is also important. Thornton's Bagel



John Pittman, president of contractor Fransen Pittman, explores the Huron Street branch during its grand opening.

Bakery has contracted with the library to run the Anythink Café at Wright Farms, now open just over a year. This provides an exciting new feature at the Thornton destination. Coffee served at the café is from another Thornton-based company, Allegro Coffee.

For Bagel Bakery owner Michelle Martinez, the opportunity to set up shop at Wright Farms was a no-brainer. “I love the environment, the built-in customer base, and becoming closer with the community,” she said. Previously, most of the bakery’s locations were “off the beaten path,” she said. “Many folks who don’t pass by—or pass by and see only the ‘bagels’ sign—have no idea how much we offer. This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce ourselves.” Martinez enjoys offering new items exclusive to the library and being a part of the Anythink family. “They are a unique group, and I feel honored to be welcomed.”

With large, comfortable meeting spaces and free Wi-Fi, the libraries support local businesses and independent professionals in many different ways. “Anythink Libraries have grown to meet the needs of our information-based economy by providing both traditional and fresh new ways for businesses to gather information and access technology resources,” says Deborah Obermeyer, president and CEO of Colorado’s Metro North Chamber of Commerce. “The facilities themselves are welcoming and have an energy that invites and supports innovation. Anythink is a tremendous asset in attracting and engaging community and business leaders to the Metro North region.”

The branding biz

Launching a large branding campaign like Anythink has also had a positive influence on local businesses that were contracted to create everything from signage to promotional materials and even the brand concept. John Bellina,

cofounder of the Denver-based marketing firm Ricochet Ideas, was part of the creative team that developed the Anythink brand and credits the experience with helping his company gain its own brand recognition. He said the national attention from the project brought his company new business from Iowa, California, and Utah.

Bellina said much of the district’s success comes from its willingness to take risks. “Status quo thinking is a race to the bottom,” he said. “The Anythink team took a good, hard look at themselves and the current state of libraries across the country and decided to take a bold, calculated risk in order to become something great,” Bellina added. “So far, it would appear that the risk to rebrand as Anythink was a far better option than the certainty of staying one of the least-funded and ignored library districts in Colorado. That calculation, while seemingly easy in retrospect, takes a great deal of courage and commitment.”

Anythink did not set out to inspire others, but its “little engine that could” story has done exactly that.

Buy local, smile local

In many ways, Anythink has approached its transformation like a start-up company. So it’s no surprise that Anythink uses as many local small businesses as it can for its services. Companies like Scudder Press and FastSigns in Northglenn or Denver Bookbinding have become valuable partners in creating some of the promotional items that have helped Anythink succeed.

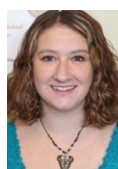
“The majority of the money we spend beyond our materials budget is with Colorado companies,” said Anythink Finance Director Mindy Kittay. Professional services, utilities, snow removal, janitorial services, and fuel are all purchased through Colorado companies.

The largest portion of the district’s budget—56% in 2011—goes toward staffing. Of the 144 people who work at the district, 81 of them live in Adams County. The rest commute from nearby areas including Denver, Boulder, and Jefferson counties.

Because many of the staff members live in Adams County, the people Anythink serves each day are more than just customers—they’re family, friends, and neighbors.

“We have significant emphasis on hospitality in our organization,” said Anythink Director Pam Sandlian Smith. “We want everyone who walks through our doors to feel welcome and be inspired by their library experience.”

And that’s just good business. ■



STACIE LEDDEN is communications manager for Anythink Libraries. This article was originally published in the Dec. 31, 2010, issue of Spark, Anythink’s public newsletter, and updated in April 2012.

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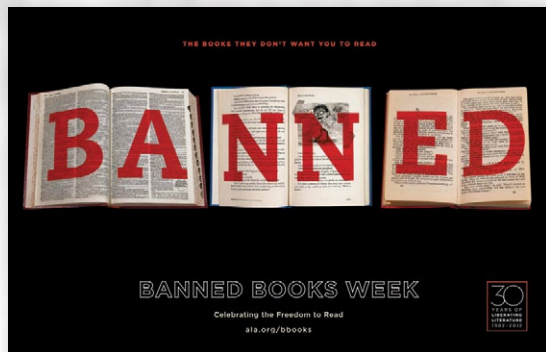
Banned Books Week September 30-October 6, 2012

Behold the power of the forbidden word and support the 30th anniversary of Banned Books Week this year with a captivating design. Banned Books Week highlights the benefits of free and open access while drawing attention to the harms of censorship by spotlighting actual or attempted bannings of books across the United States. Celebrate Banned Books Week in your school or library with the help of these new posters, bookmark, T-shirt, button, and resource materials. Librarians, teachers, booksellers, and community leaders can use this significant week to emphasize the importance of the First Amendment and the power of uncensored literature.

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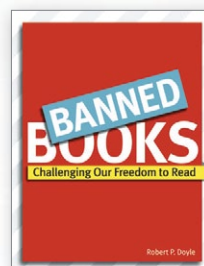
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