Proposal Legal Municipal Library

Prepared by Friends of Legal Library Society

May 18, 2018

Contents

Executive Summary

There is no shortage of literature and research on the benefits of a library to its community. In this day and age they are far from simply being about access to books but instead are key partners in community development and sustainability, able to support arts and culture, economic development, and social support and programming for all residents. All are goals recently identified by the Town in its growth plan. According to Government of Alberta statistics, towns similar in size to Legal reported an average card holder rate of 50% of the population served by the library in 2015. This number is strictly card holders and does not take into account individuals and families who participate in other programming offered by the library but not requiring a library card (Appendix A). Very few programs and services can boast such high participation rates.

The list of services that can be provided by a library is virtually endless and can be easily tailored to meet the needs of each specific community, changing along with the community over time. A younger community may want to offer greater programming for young families while a community struggling to offer youth activities and spaces may want to ensure more library resources are spent in initiatives for teens and young adults. A community with older or more isolated residents may want to focus attention on providing social spaces, educational opportunities and hobby driven activities that facilitate people gathering together.

Given the right facility, a library can become a venue for arts and culture activities, through drama clubs, book studies, hosting performers, or supporting classes. There have been numerous articles written on how libraries can also be key to economic and community development. (See Appendix B). Directly they provide employment and consume resources putting money into the local economy. Not only can they create jobs, but they can also create opportunities for youth employment and volunteering, both during summer and year round. Indirectly they increase a sense of community and value within the area around them. This can act as a positive magnet bringing more residents to the area and more support for new and existing businesses.

From internet access and fax machines to story times and movie days, there is little a library can not do if given the right space, support and people. Unlike arenas, which are no less important but much more expensive, libraries provide a wide range of diverse programming, services and benefits for a fraction of the cost.

Keith Richards once said, "When you are growing up there are two institutional places that affect you most powerfully: the church, which belongs to God and the public library, which belongs to you. The public library is a great equaliser." Public libraries provide living breathing community spaces for all, spaces which can often be limited in smaller towns. Their nature is to

provide low cost or free access to programs, education, and experiences to those around them, which is especially important for individuals and families who would not be able to access them otherwise, thereby being a socioeconomic equalizer.

The Friends of Legal Library Society has been conducting an online survey about the support for the idea of a library among residents of Legal and surrounding area. Out of the 147 completed surveys received, 90% were in support of having a physical library in Legal with only about 6% being strongly against (See Appendix C for complete results and break down). Libraries are often thought of as primarily books, and of course that is a main service they do provide, however 80% of survey respondents cited access to programs as a service they look for in a library. This was followed by 45% wanting access to computers and internet. In our internet-everything society it is often assumed every home has internet access. Access to internet service and computers is often important for employment, studies, communication with friends and family, being aware of what is happening globally and in your community, and of course, entertainment. It would seem in Legal there are numerous residents without this important service. Principal Trottier of Legal school reports many evenings and weekends there are vehicles parked in front of the school, or people (including children) sitting along the front of the school. They do this to access the free Wi-Fi because they do not have the opportunity at home.

Recently, the Friends Society also made small presentations to the students at Legal School and collected their responses about how they feel about libraries. Twenty-two percent of the responses related to access to books, 21% noted access to computer related service, and about 23% wanted a place to social, however 16% of those in grades 4-9 also recognized a library as a potential source of employment for youth. Overall 18% of students loved the idea of a local library because it would be accessible to all. They overwhelmingly agreed that staying in town for programs and services is a major benefit to this project. (See Appendix D). This point in particular is important to consider when weighing the value of committing funds to creating and supporting a library. Every time a resident can access a good or service within their own community, that community grows stronger. Unfortunately the reverse is also true, when residents leave the community to access what they need the community weakens.

We propose the creation of the Legal Library be a collaboration between the Town of Legal and the Friends of Legal Library Society. Within this group are many energetic, capable volunteers who have a passion to see such a valuable asset become a reality in their community. Once Town Council passes a bylaw to create the library board, the Friends of Legal Library will be there to support the work going forward with time, energy and fundraising.

There are two possible variations for the proposed vision. In the first, the library is located in a building owned by the Town, the Friends Society, or the library itself. In the second the library is permanently or temporarily housed in a leased space in the old studio building on Main Street.

Option one of the proposed vision would situate the library in a building on Main Street where no monthly rent or mortgage payment is necessary. This could be accomplished potentially by collecting money for the purchase of the building through fundraising and grants. Ownership of this building would then be, ideally, by the library itself but if not, the title could potentially be held by the Friends Society unless the Town was interested in ownership. Location options are described in more detail in the Operations section of this document.

Though a location on Main Street would offer a greater positive visual impact and much needed lift for this area, it has also come to our attention the Fete au Village Society is looking to build a new building for use during Fete. Purposing part of this new proposed building as library space would also be suitable. Even further, an addition to the existing Citadel building could also be a possibility if it better suited the Town's vision.

In surveying communities of similar size around Alberta, annual budgets range from $145000 down to $31000, with an average of $65000. As with any good or service, libraries are a case of you get what you pay for. For the library to maximize its benefit to all areas of the community it is important the hours of operation be significant and consistent. In this proposal, the annual financial contribution from the Town is set at $53000, with an additional $12000 coming from the province and $5000 coming from Sturgeon County. This would allow for reasonable staffing hours to provide not only general library hours and service but also specialized programs. The challenges and possibilities will be outlined in further detail in Financials.

Small towns can do great things and one has to look no further than Newbrook and Innisfree here in Alberta. Each of these towns is smaller than Legal but has secured a library for their community through hard work and partnerships. Newbrook has only 93 residents but offers library service to their community four days a week for a total of 27 hours. In addition there is a youth group run out of the library in the evening. Innisfree is home to 300 residents and offers service 3 days a week and a range of programming. These libraries came to be because of the belief of community members in the value of a library and the dedication to make it happen.

Now is the time for vision and co-operation. Success in this endeavour will require seeing the greater value of a local library as a community hub and program rich environment, not just a place to get books.

Legal Library Mission Statement
The Legal Library will be a space for all residents of Legal and beyond to come together accessing programming and resources important to their families. Its mission is to be what the community needs it to be, striving always to remove as many barriers as possible.

Products and Services

The following is a list of the possible products and services that could be offered by the library. Which ones are undertaken would depend on the needs and interests of the community and would likely change over time. After creation of the Library Board, a Needs Assessment will be completed using tools from the Libraries department of Municipal Affairs. The results of this assessment would be the guide for library planning. All programs and services would aim to be accessible, inclusive, and as close to free from barriers to participation as possible.

After school programs for school age children	Nation Film Board Movie Showings
Travel Nights	Literacy Services
Movie Days	Coffee Talks
Home Item and Tool Lending Library	Books for Babies
Computer Training	Casual Space to Gather and Socialize
Periodicals	Spring Break/Christmas Programming
Language Learning	Science Classes
Social Media Classes	Meeting Spaces
Craft Classes – All Ages	Youth Group Space
Host Presenters – All Topics	Drama Club
Community Welcome Nights	Parenting Group Space
iMovie Classes	Writer Workshops
Discussion Groups	Make it Space
History Club	Lego Club
Computer and Internet Access	Minecraft Club
Genealogy Resources	Seniors' Resources
Short Story Write-ins with Author in Residence	Knitting Club

Book Study	Paint Nights
Fax Machine Access	Social Potlucks
Summer Reading Programs	Audio Books
Host Performers – All Audiences	Science Classes
Meeting Space	Robotics Club
Youth Graffiti Nights	Audio Visual Equipment Lending
Writer's Workshops	Guest Authors
Safe Space for Kids	Community Resource Information
Homework Space	History Club
Anti-Bullying Workshops	Cooking Classes - ie. Cake Decorating, Snacks for Kids
Book Fairs	Painted Rock Hide and Seek
Book draws	Children's Reading and Imagination Corner
Cookie Swaps	Resident Animals
Jig Saw Puzzle Table	Learners Driver's License Prep Class
Gardening Programs – All Ages	Food Sharing
Environment Club	Local Service Exchange – Barter
Birthday Parties	Local Service Exchange – Paid
Rental Room	Book Keeping Classes
By-the-Day Office Space	Community Service Initiatives
Budgeting Classes	Parent-Child Activity Nights
Wii Sports Nights	Family Games Nights
Role Play Games Night	Seed Exchange

Operations

Physically we envision the library to be in a building that can be used for multiple purposes and various community groups. Such a building would be large enough to provide at least 800sqft of space to house the collection, computer resources, and provide casual space to sit and connect. Ideally there would also be another 400sqft of multipurpose programming room. To serve as a multipurpose building we would be aiming to include a permanent space for youth programming and a space in which to welcome performers and presenters.

There are several buildings currently suitable for use on Main Street in Legal. The three main options are the Cenalta building (list price $295,000), the old studio building (list price $309,900) and the Legal Hotel ($320,000). Of the three, the old studio building would require the least by way of renovation to provide the necessary spaces. The basement would have to be brought up to code if it were to be used as a youth space. The main floor would likely need more bathroom facilities. The Cenalta building is the best choice when considering Supernet connection as it is close to the tie in but would, over time, require redevelopment to remove some of the office space in favour of a more open design, and would have the same considerations with washroom facilities. The Cenalta building also has the added feature of the parking lot in front. The Hotel would be the largest undertaking but extremely worthwhile in the scope of a larger project where the library was the cornerstone of the building and other uses occupying the remainder. Other initiatives could include a business incubator, Arts and Culture Society, cafe, or even bed and breakfast. All of these buildings lend themselves well to accessibility.

The cost of purchasing and renovating a building should not be a deterrent for this project. The Friends of Legal Library Society is willing to undertake a fundraising campaign to raise the purchase price and renovation cost of a building. Such a project can, in itself, build community by giving friends, neighbours, businesses and service organizations the opportunity to work together for a common goal.

All spaces would require the purchase of shelving, tables, chairs, computers, and miscellaneous other furniture and fixtures to make an inviting, comfortable space. Computers and the necessary systems can be purchased through Northern Lights (approximately $1100 per computer) and would include IT support and training. Of course there would also be the need to build the library's collection. Most of this would be done through purchase via Friends Society fundraising, the Northern Lights book allowance, the Alberta Government's start up funding (approximately $13,000), and by collecting retired books from other libraries and members of the public.

Hours of operation would depend greatly on funding and the needs of the community. This proposal suggests the library be open or providing programming at least 30 hours per week. Staff would consist of one main manager/librarian at 20 plus hours per week with the possibility of an evening program contractor. Service provision would also be enhanced through the use of

volunteers for an additional 10 hours a week. The goal of the library is also to create a position for a STEP student in the summer months and to provide opportunity for part-time youth employment year round. Included in staff expenses are 8 hours of paid student employment per week. All staff will be hired locally from Legal and area.

A Supernet connection to the library will be required in order to access the IT support provided by Northern Lights. In speaking with Axia, the fibre optic cable provider for Supernet here in Legal, there are several places in to connect in town (See Appendix E for map). The easiest location to provide this service would be to the Cenalta building on Main Street. There, it would be a short underground hop across to the alley to access the building. The cost on this is estimated between $5000 and $8000, but could also be less. The other two previously identified locations on Main Street could be closer to $25000 to service with Supernet.

There is great diversity in how libraries manage fees for those they serve. Given Legal residents may see an increase in their tax, it would be fair to say a library card would be without charge for those living in Legal. Those living outside of town would pay a reasonable fee by individual or family. Programs requiring more materials or cost beyond which the library has the capacity to absorb could also have their own fees.

Management
As with all Municipal Libraries in the province, the Legal Municipal Library will be operated by the Legal Library Board to be created by Town Council through a bylaw. Day to day operations of the library will be conducted by the main staff member who would report to the Board on a regular basis.

Financials

Projected Project Start Up Costs

The following are all estimates, and are subject to change. They were obtained through consultation with professionals and research where possible.

Projected Expenditures - Set Up - CenAlta

Purchase Price		$295,000.00
Renovation		$100,000.00
Supernet		$8,000.00
Computers	4@$1100ea	$4,400.00
Library Furnishings		$5,000.00
Collection		$10,000.00
	Total	**$422,400.00**

Projected Expenditures - Set Up - Old Studio

Purchase Price		$309,000.00
Renovation		$50,000.00
Supernet		$25,000.00
Computers	4@$1100ea	$4,400.00
Library Furnishings		$5,000.00
Collection		$10,000.00
	Total	**$403,400.00**

Projected Expenditures - Set Up - Hotel

Purchase Price		$300,000.00
Demolition		$61,000.00
Rebuild First Floor	3000sqft	$600,000.00
Rebuild Second Floor	3000sqft	$300,000.00
Supernet		$25,000.00
Computers	4@$1100ea	$4,400.00
Library Furnishings		$5,000.00
Collection		$10,000.00
	Total	**$1,305,400.00**

Projected Annual Expenditures and Incomes

Annual Projected Expenditures (Building Owned)

Staffing		$35,000.00
Utilities		$4,000.00
Insurance		$12,000.00
Northern Lights Board		$6,500.00
Northern Lights Town		$6,500.00
Programming		$5,000.00
Property Tax		$4,800.00
Incidentals		$1,200.00
Supernet		$7,200.00
	Total	$82,200.00

Annual Projected Expenditures (Building Leased)

Staffing		$35,000.00
Utilities		$4,000.00
Insurance		$12,000.00
Northern Lights Board		$6,500.00
Northern Lights Town		$6,500.00
Programming		$5,000.00
Incidentals		$1,200.00
Supernet		$7,200.00
Lease	1200/mth	$14,400.00
	Total	$91,800.00

Annual Projected Incomes

Town of Legal	$53,000.00
Province of Alberta	$12,000.00
Sturgeon County	$5,000.00
Friends of Legal Library Society (FLLS)	$5,000.00
Alberta Public Libraries Supernet Connectitivity	$7,200.00
Total	$82,200.00

- Staffing was calculated at a rate of $25/hr plus CCP and EI contributions approximated for about 30 hours a week for the main staff or two part time staff. In addition, 8 hours a week were also added at the rate of $16/hr plus CCP and EI to allow for hiring a student or program staff.
- Insurance is a bit of a question mark as to cost as we were not able to get a proper quote for coverage. It was also unclear whether or not there is a possibility of covering the library under the Town's policy.

Summary

In communities around the world libraries have proven to be much more than book lenders but instead community builders. A municipal library in Legal would do the same. Legal has many strengths but will only benefit from the flexible resources and programming provided by a library which can be tailored to the needs of residents and local business. Recently the Town identified economic growth, sustainability, and promotion of arts and culture as key goals in their plan to move the community forward. A library will contribute to all of these goals and much more.

In weighing the value of this project it is critical the vision for the library be more than just about access to books. It must be understood the value is in keeping people within the community, providing space for them to gather, and providing programs and services. Only with this perspective can the argument be won in favour of investment in a physical library. Few community investments can offer such great potential for so relatively small a cost.

Appendix A

Taken from Alberta Municipal Affairs Public Library Statistics 2015

and

Alberta Public Library Directory 2017.

Town	Population	Cardholders	% of Pop. Cardholders	Annual Budget
Athabasca	2990	1931	64.58	145731.00
Bentley	1073	658	61.32	67283.00
Bon Accord	1488	738	49.60	91436.00
Bowden	1241	341	27.48	37562.00
Boyle	916	547	59.72	56160.00
Eckville	1125	326	28.98	62932.00
Elk Point	1571	3243	206.43	88281.00
Falher	1075	371	34.51	42586.00
Irricana	1162	531	45.70	60851.00
Lamont	1753	372	21.22	31469.00
Manning	1164	501	43.04	86977.00
Mayerthorpe	1398	1192	85.26	93706.00
Onoway	1039	1022	98.36	113149.00
Oyen	1070	695	64.95	32049.00
Picture Butte	1650	568	34.42	75578.00
Smokey Lake	1022	475	46.48	49498.00
Swan Hills	1465	3274	223.48	70146.00
Two Hills	1431	927	64.78	56767.00

Appendix B

Libraries as Community Builders

1. **Libraries help revitalize struggling or depressed neighborhoods and downtowns.**
   - o Place-based economic development stresses the importance of offering attractive, functional, and community-based places, such as libraries, in town squares and depressed neighborhoods. Like a major department store in a mall, libraries attract large numbers of people, creating economic opportunities for a myriad of businesses and organizations in the surrounding area. Large cities (such as Chicago[3]), medium-sized ones (Hudson, Ohio), and even small towns (Putney, Vermont) have successfully transformed their libraries into the hubs of vibrant neighborhoods.[4]

2. **Libraries are important partners in sustainability.**
   - o As key municipal agencies, and focal points for community education, libraries are major players in creating livable, environmentally friendly cities and towns. The Urban Libraries Council released a report detailing the unique ways in which libraries can further sustainability at the local level.[5] Beyond ensuring that library construction projects consider environmental impact, libraries can take a lead in supporting local foods and artisans, like the Peabody (Mass.) Institute Library's (PIL) partnering with local businesses to pioneer a farmers' market in their courtyard, or the Richmond (Calif.) Public Library's (RPL) seed lending library which "nurtures locally-adapted plant varieties, and fosters community resilience, self-reliance and a culture of sharing.[6]"

3. **Libraries' special collections grow out of specific community needs.**
   - o In addition to RPL's seed lending library, there are other examples of libraries that provide circulating collections of everything from cake pans to fishing rods to bike locks. The Iowa City (Iowa) Public Library circulates framed posters and original artwork through its Art-to-Go collection[7]. The Temescal Branch of the Oakland (Calif.) Public Library literally builds the community through its Tool Lending Library, which was created in 1991 to help rebuilding efforts after a disaster[8]. Libraries that start such unique collections show how locally responsive and flexible a truly community-centered library can be.

4. **Archives preserve historic artifacts, oral histories, digital history projects, and monographs relevant to the community, including minority groups.**
   - o Communities lucky enough to have archivists have a great advantage when it comes to organizing historical records and artifacts. An organized archive is a place where people can research genealogy and immigration history, do environmental research, and more. An archivist is an advocate for preservation who, among other things, coordinates the restoration of maps and paintings, the digitization of vital records, and the creation of oral history projects. With projects like the Mass. Memories Road Show[9]and the Veterans History Project,[10] evidence of the importance of archives is everywhere.

5. **Libraries are places where people come to know themselves and their communities.**

o In the words of Robert Putnam, "People may go to the library looking mainly for information, but they find each other there."[11] New moms connect at baby story-times; elderly people, often facing difficult life transitions, attend events and find that they make new friends; teenagers meet up in libraries' teen spaces after school; and readers discuss current events in the periodicals room. In libraries, community-building connections are happening all the time.

6. **Libraries serve as catalysts for addressing social problems.**
    o Public librarians know their communities firsthand, and are often the first to recognize a pressing local need, simply because they interact on a daily basis with patrons from all walks of life. This puts libraries and librarians in the best position not only to bring local issues to municipal governments and social agencies, but also to partner with local governments and agencies to address the needs of a community. PIL's "Library Lunches,"[12] part of the Summer Food Service Program, is a compelling example of how a library recognized a social need, brought it to the attention of the community, and partnered with local agencies to address an important issue—how to provide meals for hundreds of hungry kids.

7. **Libraries, which champion, promote, and reflect important democratic values, are a part of the community's political life.**
    o Libraries can, should, and do play an important role in the political life of a community. From Banned Books Week displays,[13] which combat the perils of school and community censorship efforts, to programs such as the September Project,[14] which gathers community members and encourages them to talk about issues of freedom, justice, and democracy, libraries are pivotal in encouraging informed political involvement. Libraries also help citizens learn how to become advocates for themselves and their communities.

8. **Library buildings as architectural structures are culturally relevant.**
    o From gorgeous old Carnegie buildings to modern marvels like the Seattle Public Library, library buildings are rich in symbolism and meaning. Whether it is architecturally grand or the simplest of rooms tucked into a city government building, the physical space of the library communicates to the public our underlying values: that libraries, information, and shared community space matter, something that the American Library Association (ALA) recognizes each year with its Library Design Showcase in American Libraries.[15]

9. **Libraries provide important business resources, especially for small local businesses.**
    o With the recent collapse of many big corporations, it has become more widely acknowledged that small businesses provide most of the new jobs in our current economy. Libraries have a long history of serving local entrepreneurs and businesses, but some, like the District of Columbia Public Libraries (DCPL), are taking their business services to a new level. The Urban Libraries Council report, "Making Cities Stronger," describes several library initiatives, including DCPL's Enchanced Business Information Center (e-BIC) project. Located at the main branch library, e-BIC includes not only business resources, but also a state-of-the-art video conference room, full-time librarian, and staff-training workshops.[16]

Libraries as Community Centers for Diverse Populations

10. **Libraries help to ensure that non-English speakers see themselves represented in their communities.**
    - Multilingual library websites, like those at the San Francisco[17] and Queens (N.Y.) public libraries,[18] are just one of the ways in which libraries help non-English speakers see themselves represented in their communities. Public libraries often collect books in languages other than English, incorporate appropriate signage, and hire librarians and staff members who are multilingual. Additionally, some libraries offer bilingual book clubs.[19] Services like these help all community members recognize the depth of diversity that exists in their communities.
11. **Libraries provide immigrants with helpful information about, and opportunities to connect with, their new communities.**
    - Not only are libraries gateways to the community, they provide a place where new immigrants and their families can connect with resources, learn new skills, and meet new people. The San Diego Public Library offers a specific webpage highlighting area and library services for new Americans.[20] The New York Public Library (NYPL) offers English As a Second Language (ESL) classes, provides citizenship information, and celebrates Immigrant Heritage Week.[21] PLA offers an online learning module for librarians interested in providing new or improved services to new immigrants.[22] Services like these make libraries essential for new immigrants, as they provide services and information about their new community and government while at the same time meeting the needs of these new patrons in an accessible and appropriate way.
12. **Libraries provide information, resources, and support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersexed, and questioning (LGBTIQ) patrons.**
    - For gay teens, libraries are much-needed safe spaces and supportive librarians are allies and mentors. NYPL offers programs for LGBTIQ adults and teens,[23] including an annual anti-prom designed for high school students who may not feel welcomed and included at a traditional school-based prom. The NYPL also maintains a blog that connects readers with LGBTIQ resources and information.[24]
13. **Libraries provide information, resources, and support for patrons with disabilities.**
    - Recognizing that diversity isn't just about ethnicity, language, or culture, public libraries provide unique and adaptable spaces and services for patrons with disabilities. In 2001, ALA adopted a policy on library services for people with disabilities,[25] and many libraries, including the Denver[26] and Chicago[27] public libraries, offer a variety of tools and services, from software and equipment to special collections and homebound programs. The Nashville (Tenn.) Public Library has "several staff members fluent in American Sign Language."[28] Going one step further, some libraries develop creative programs to partner with patrons with disabilities. For example, PIL's Bookworm Café,[29] a partnership with a high

school life skills program, allows the library to offer a morning coffee cart to patrons, while providing valuable work experience for students with special needs.

Libraries as Centers for the Arts

14. **Libraries provide access to nonmainstream points of view and give voice to local artists.**
    - Public libraries strive to provide collections and services that represent various points of view, and often work closely with local artists to do so. In many communities, local authors seek out public libraries as places to promote and make their new books available, and library services like Overdrive[30] allow local musicians to upload and distribute their work. From the art gallery at the Newton Free Library[31] in Massachusetts to NYPL's collection of zines,[32] local arts abound in public libraries.

15. **Libraries provide opportunities for free classes that encourage art appreciation as well as art participation.**
    - Providing opportunities for children and adults alike, library arts programs range from the simplest of crafts to the finest of fine arts. Picturing America programs,[33] with their focus on American art and art history, creative writing workshops, and painting classes, are just a few examples of the ways that libraries offer a wealth of opportunities to explore and understand art.

16. **Libraries provide access to the arts for all, not just those who can afford them.**
    - As Keith Richards said, "The public library is the great equalizer."[34] Despite the rising costs of concert and theater tickets, public library events (including concerts, author visits, and gallery displays) are often offered free of charge, enabling people of any income level to attend. In addition, library book groups allow people to explore and discuss the literary arts, and the Great Stories Club[35] introduce at-risk youth to literature. The best part: it's all free and open to the public.

Libraries as Universities

17. **Libraries serve as the "people's university."**
    - In a time when education is increasingly expensive, public libraries provide information and educational opportunities free for all people, regardless of their socioeconomic status. Offered by libraries across the county, ALA's Let's Talk about It programs[36] are wonderful examples of scholar-facilitated learning opportunities in libraries. In addition, many libraries present classes and discussion programs, and some even provide online continuing education courses such as the Universal Class database.[37]

18. **Libraries offer opportunities for remote access, making it possible for those who can't get to the library to still access the library's cultural and educational offerings.**
    - In addition to bookmobiles and databases, many libraries go above and beyond to make their services available to everyone. Polk County (Fla.) Library System

offers B-Mail,[38] a free book-by-mail delivery service, and in Zimbabwe donkey-drawn carts deliver library services to remote villages.[39]

19. **Libraries go beyond providing content to enabling patrons to create their own content.**
    o Librarians know that patrons aren't just information consumers, they're information producers. Patrons use the library to gain knowledge in order to create their own new and independent works. Increasing numbers of libraries provide spaces and services that meet the needs of people who want to learn how to edit Wikipedia, set up blogs or podcasts, create their own zines, and so much more. Many libraries offer art or writing workshops and groups, and some provide music practice rooms for patrons. Programs like ImaginOn[40] in Charlotte (N.C.) provide exciting models that take community partnership, creativity, and creation to a new level.

20. **Libraries promote civil discourse.**
    o The decline of civil discourse stems in part from the fact that it is so easy for people to watch news about, buy products from, and engage—in both the virtual and real worlds—only with those of similar backgrounds and ideologies. Public libraries, through such programs as The Human Library[41] and Socrates Café,[42] can help build small communities of difference that encourage people to interact with and learn from each other through dialogue. By both actively promoting civil discourse through these programs, and by modeling and upholding the principles of free inquiry and expression for all, libraries help individuals rediscover the importance of and increased need for civil discourse in American life.

Libraries as Champions of Youth

21. **Libraries teach teens important life skills.**
    o The skills that teens pick up from teen advisory boards, volunteer opportunities, programs, and jobs can prepare them for success in high school, college, and the workforce. Brooklyn Public Library's Multicultural Internship Program provides teens with positive work experiences, while also providing the library with a diverse staff that more closely mirrors the demographics of its community.[43]

22. **Free tutoring, homework help programs, and summer reading programs for kids and teens help bridge the economic divide that impacts students' academic performance.**
    o The cost of hiring a private tutor is well beyond what many library patrons can afford, so libraries offer homework help and tutoring online, by phone, in person, and even through social media and homework apps.[44] Annual summer reading programs also have a positive impact on student performance and, according to a 2010 study conducted by Dominican University's Graduate School of Library and Information Science, students' reading skills get a boost from these popular nationwide events.[45]

23. **Libraries are important partners in child development.**
    o Through library collections, programs, and physical spaces, children learn to share, to be engaged in their communities, to participate in the arts, and to explore

their immediate world and the world at large. There are surely endless examples of innovative library services for children, including the Middle Country Public Library's (in Centereach, N.Y.) Nature Explorium, which engages children in learning about the natural world.[46]

These examples are just a few of the many amazing things that public libraries around the United States (and the world) are doing to build and maintain strong community connections. We encourage you to try some of these ideas in your own libraries, and we hope that these ideas will help you be better able to convince your community leaders of the important role that public libraries play in communities large and small.

References

[1] David Morris, "The Public Library Manifesto: Why Libraries Matter, and How We Can Save Them," *YES! Magazine*, May 6, 2011, accessed June 17, 2011.

[2]Robert Putnam, *Better Together: Restoring the American Community* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2003), 42.

[3]Ibid., 34–54.

[4]William M. Senville, "Libraries Bring Value to Our Communities," *Planning Commissioners Journal* 75 (Summer 2009), accessed June 7, 2011.

[5]Urban Libraries Council, "Partners for the Future: Public Libraries and Local Governments Creating Sustainable Communities," 2010, accessed June 7, 2011.

[6]Richmond Public Library, "Richmond Grows Seed Lending Library," accessed June 15, 2011.

[7]Iowa City Public Library, "Unique Collections: Art," accessed June 6, 2011.

[8]Oakland Public Library, "Temescal Tool Lending Library," accessed June 7, 2011.

[9]University of Massachusetts Boston, "Mass. Memories Road Show," accessed June 7, 2011.

[10]Library of Congress American Folklife Center, "Veterans History Project," accessed June 7, 2011.

[11]Robert Putnam, *Better Together: Restoring the American Community* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2003), 49.

[12]Matthew K. Roy, "New Summer Program Provides Free Lunch to Peabody Youth," *Salem News*, June 25, 2009, accessed June 21, 2011.

[13]See American Library Association, "Banned Books Week," and "Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read," both accessed June 21, 2011.

[14]The September Project blog, accessed June 21, 2011.

[15]Greg Landgraf, "Library Design Showcase 2011," American Libraries, Mar. 23, 2011, accessed June 21, 2011.

[16]Urban Libraries Council, "Making Cities Stronger: Public Library Contributions to Local Economic Development," Jan. 2007, accessed June 7, 2011.

[17]San Francisco Public Library, "United States Citizenship Resources," accessed June 21, 2011.

[18]Queens Library, "Citizenship and Immigrant Services," accessed June 21, 2011.

[19]Stacie N. Galang, "Peabody Public Library Starts First Bilingual Book Club," Salem News, May 10, 2010, accessed June 25, 2011.

[20]San Diego Public Library, "Resources for New Americans," accessed June 21, 2011.

[21]New York Public Library, " Immigrant Services," accessed June 21, 2011, www.nypl.org/help/community-outreach/immigrant-services.
[22]Public Library Association, "Welcome to the United States: Services for New Immigrants," accessed June 21, 2011.
[23]New York Public Library, "Public Programs," accessed June 7, 2011.
[24]————, "LGBT@NYPL," accessed June 7, 2011.
[25]The Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies, a division of the American Library Association,"Library Services for
People with Disabilities Policy," accessed June 21, 2011.
[26]Denver Public Library, "Services for Persons with Disabilities," accessed June 21, 2011.
[27]Chicago Public Library, "Find Services for People with Disabilities," accessed June 21, 2011, www.chipublib.org/howto/lib_disability.php.
[28]Nashville Public Library, "For People with Disabilities," accessed June 21, 2011.
[29]Stacey N. Galang, "Cafe Launches in Peabody Library's Young Adult Section," Salem News, Dec. 19, 2007, accessed Sept. 27, 2011.
[30]OverDrive homepage, accessed June 7, 2011.
[31]Newton Free Library, "Calendar of Events: June 2011 Art Exhibits" accessed June 7, 2011.
[32]New York Public Library, "Zines," accessed June 7, 2011.
[33]Picturing America for Public Libraries, accessed June 7, 2011.
[34]New York Public Library, "Live from the NYPL: Keith Richards," accessed June 7, 2011.
[35]ALA Public Programs Office, "Great Stories Club," accessed June 7, 2011.
[36]————, "Let's Talk About It," accessedJune 7, 2011, www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/ppo/programming/ltai/letstalkaboutit.cfm.
[37]UniversalClass homepage, accessed June 7, 2011.
[38]Polk County Library System, "Books by Mail," accessed June 27, 2011.
[39]Lewis Jones, "ZDDT Appeal: Supporting the Donkey Library,"Aug. 1, 2011, accessed Sept. 27, 2011.
[40]ImaginOn homepage, accessed June 21, 2011.
[41]The Human Library homepage, accessed June 21, 2011.
[42]Society for Philosophical Inquiry, "Socrates Café," accessed June 21, 2011.
[43]Brooklyn Public Library, "Multicultural Internship Program," accessed June 6, 2011.
[44]Homework NYC homepage, accessed June 6, 2011.
[45]Susan Roman, Deborah T. Carran, and Carole D. Fiore, "The Dominican Study: Public Library Summer Reading Programs Close the Reading Gap," Dominican University Graduate School of Library and Information Science, June 2010, accessed June 7, 2011.
[46]Middle Country Public Library, "MCPL Nature Explorium," accessed June 7, 2011.

FINANCING

Libraries lend a hand to development

Open this photo in gallery:

In Calgary, a $245-million new central library is planned for the city's East Village.

CALGARY MUNICIPAL LAND CORP./MIR
JOSH O'KANE
PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 3, 2014UPDATED MARCH 25, 2017

In a city often focused on history, it is a glistening monument to the future: Halifax's new central library, set to open on Spring Garden Road by the end of the year, is no ode to the paper books of libraries past.

It's designed to be a gathering place, a learning space and an innovation centre. What will happen inside the building, though, may have less of an impact on the city than what happens around it. The Halifax Regional Municipality is consciously using the $57.6-million library to attract development along Spring Garden's bustling retail corridor.

The costs of the branch are covered, in part, by the sale of three adjacent parking lots to private developers, who in turn are building new mid-rise, mixed-use projects in the area, bringing much-needed density to the city's core.

The library is crucial infrastructure needed to bring Halifax into the 21st century, says Wadih Fares, who, on top of developing two of those parking lots, just announced a $100,000 donation to the branch. Mr. Fares sees it as a stimulus for downtown growth, likening it to the first spark in a fireplace: "It will ignite the whole fire."

Consumers are moving to e-books in droves, but the death of the conventional library may be greatly exaggerated. The dissemination of information no longer requires a printing press, but it remains a core component of democracy. Cities across Canada are building new libraries with a focus on broader learning and community building – and they're being financed in ways that complement and encourage nearby development. Those branches are paying their cities back in spades, bringing in greater density and community engagement.

In Halifax, Mr. Fares's donation will help pay for a community space within the library, which was built by Danish architects Schmidt Hammer Lassen with local partner Fowler, Bauld & Mitchell. Mr. Fares, who emigrated from Lebanon to Halifax in the 1980s, wants people to live and play downtown in the city that has supported his life and career. "The more community places you have, the more modern, 21st-century buildings that go up, it attracts people to that area," he says.

Paula Saulnier, interim chief executive officer of Halifax Public Libraries, says "any city that invests in their libraries makes a commitment to learning, to culture and democracy." That, in turn, brings people: "We're going to see this as a catalyst to encourage people to live and work in the downtown."

Two of the nearby parking lots have been sold, bringing in nearly $14-million to cover municipal costs of the project, with up to $10-million expected from the third, says Peter Stickings, the HRM's manager of corporate real estate.

New libraries are increasingly being seen as community focal points. Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson called a new central branch an "important community asset" when campaigning for re-election in October. A planned branch on Vancouver's East Hastings Street, meanwhile, is part of a joint project with YWCA Metro Vancouver that will include affordable housing for low-income single mothers and their children.

In Calgary, a $245-million new central library has been announced for the city's East Village, which is undergoing a multi-decade, 49-acre brownfield redevelopment project to transform it from neglected neighbourhood to family-friendly community. By the time the East Village is fully developed, more than 11,000 people are expected to call it home. The curved, glass downtown library, perched on top of a light-rail transit line, is set to open in 2018.

"We consider the library an educational anchor to the development" of the East Village, says Susan Veres, vice-president of marketing for the Calgary Municipal Land Corp. (CMLC), which was created by the city in 2007 to redevelop the neighbourhood.

When the East Village site was chosen for the new library, the CMLC committed $70-million to the project from its community revitalization levy, a pot of money the corporation sets aside for infrastructure improvements. Rather than add a development levy to existing property taxes, CMLC struck a 20-year tax-incremental financing deal with the city to funnel income from new development into specific projects to improve the community, adding amenities to encourage further development.

So far the fund has invested $345-million into public improvements in the East Village, Ms. Veres says. Though much of the land is already scooped up by developers, "I think [the new library will] affect people choosing to live here," she says. "The neighbourhood had a bad personality, and now that personality is changing favourably."

"I'm really proud that the library is the linchpin for all that," says Bill Ptacek, CEO of the Calgary Public Library. The Calgary system is aiming to double its membership in the near future as it makes its library cards free and beefs up its programs. The strategy includes, as reading goes electronic, getting rid of some of those pesky physical books. "We're trying to take up less space in our community library to make more space for people."

Calgary isn't the only city where a whole new downtown community is popping up. The former railway lands along Toronto's waterfront have turned into a sprawling community of condo towers that, until this year, was without a library. When planning the community, the city decided to apply a per-unit levy to developers building in the area to fund public services like a school, community centre and library.

The levies are charged to developers as soon as they apply for building permits. The original indexed library levy, set in 1994, was set at $277 per unit, but rose to $400 by 2008. This funded half – $4.6-million – of the cost of the new Fort York branch, which opened in May.

This wasn't the only bonus the branch scored from private development. The developer Context, whose Library District condos are adjacent to the library, donated $500,000 for the branch's public art installation, a collaboration between visual artist Charles Pachter based on Margaret Atwood's poetry collection The Journals of Susanna Moodie.

"I think it's been a really successful way, from the city's perspective, to deliver a complete neighbourhood," says Toronto planner Lynda Macdonald, who oversees that community. "We think the new library is fabulous and the community loves it."

Anne Bailey, Toronto's acting city librarian, says the new branch is an important step for the growing community. "Through the glass and openness of the facility, it declares to the neighbourhood that it's here, it's open and it's available for everyone."

FOLLOW JOSH O'KANE ON TWITTER @JOSHOKANE
_REPORT AN ERROR_EDITORIAL CODE OF CONDUCT_LICENSING OPTIONS
As of December 20, 2017, we have temporarily removed commenting from our articles as we switch to a new provider. We are behind schedule, but we are still working hard to bring you

a new commenting system as soon as possible. If you are looking to give feedback on our new site, please send it along to feedback@globeandmail.com. If you want to write a letter to the editor, please forward to letters@globeandmail.com.
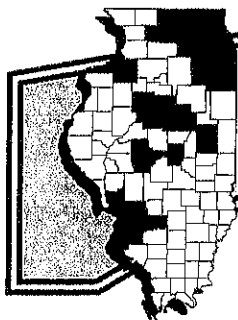
Public Libraries and Community Economic Development: Partnering for Success

by Christine Hamilton-Pennell, MLIS, MAR[1]

In the past decade, economic development experts have moved away from traditional approaches to economic development that have relied upon recruiting or attracting large businesses with offers of tax breaks, financial incentives, and other subsidies. Increasingly, communities are focusing their economic development resources on supporting the growth of existing businesses and creating a nurturing and information-rich environment where new entrepreneurs can flourish.

Entrepreneurship as an Economic Development Strategy

Recent research studies indicate that promoting entrepreneurship and small business development makes sense as an economic development strategy (Edmiston 2007). The U.S. Small Business Administration (2006) has long recognized the important role small businesses play in the United States economy. It reports that firms with fewer than 20 employees represent 97.5 percent of the total number of firms, account for half of U.S. nonfarm real gross domestic product, and have generated 60 to 80 percent of the net new jobs in the United States over the past decade. The 2006 report to the President devotes an entire chapter to the benefits of "economic gardening"—an entrepreneurial approach to economic development first pioneered in Littleton, Colorado—over "chasing smokestacks."

Prior *Rural Research Reports* have made the case that entrepreneurship is key in rural economic development strategies (Macke and Markley 2006). Microenterprises—businesses with fewer than five employees—have a significant impact on rural economies. For example, they employ upwards of 25 percent of the total workforce in almost one-third of Illinois counties (Walzer, Hamm, and Merrett 2007). These microenterprises require special attention and services in order to prosper, but many small communities that depend on them are unable to provide such assistance. What options do such communities have?

This report examines the role that public libraries can play in supporting local economic development efforts and, specifically, in helping to create vibrant communities and meet the information and workforce needs of local entrepreneurs.

The Case for Public Library Involvement

Public libraries are natural partners in local economic development efforts. They are usually centrally located in a community and provide a variety of resources designed to foster human growth and development, promote early literacy and school readiness, and develop workforce capacity. Larger public libraries usually offer business-related databases and business reference materials, career development tools, and access to trained reference librarians. Many journal articles and studies make the case that public libraries can positively impact local economic development efforts and produce mutually beneficial results for both libraries and the business community (e.g., Glass et al. 2000; Walzer and Gruidl 1996).

Maxine Bleiweis (1997), in *Helping Business: The Library's Role in Community Economic Development*, makes the point

[1]Author is founder and president of Growing Local Economies, a training and consulting company. She served for more than four years as the economic intelligence specialist for the Business/Industry Affairs department of the City of Littleton, Colorado. She can be reached at Christine@growinglocaleconomies.com.

that libraries depend on a tax base supported in large part by business "and should therefore have a vested interest in the support of that tax base" (xiv). Politically, the arguments for library involvement with economic development efforts are even more compelling. The community leaders who make budget decisions often are business people. If they understand the library's role in the success of local business and economic growth, they will more often fund library operations.

A recent report from the Urban Libraries Council (2007), *Making Cities Stronger: Public Library Contributions to Local Economic Development*, reports that "investment in public libraries not only benefits individuals, but it also strengthens community capacity to address urgent issues related to economic development" (1). After identifying the role of public libraries in providing small business support, the report further states that "when libraries work with local and state agencies to provide business development data, workshops, and research, market entry costs to prospective small businesses are reduced, existing businesses are strengthened, and new enterprises are created" (3).

In response to pressure in recent years to justify the resources spent on public libraries, more than a dozen research studies have been conducted to show the return on investment of public dollars spent on library services. These studies overwhelmingly and consistently show that public libraries not only pay fully for their existence but also produce positive returns on taxpayer investments made in them (e.g., Barron et al. 2005; Griffiths et al. 2004, 2006; Imholz and Arns 2007).

Opportunities and Challenges

Public libraries can bring many assets when partnering with business and economic development, including knowledgeable staff; proven return on investment; online and print resources to support business, workforce, and literacy development; and the library building and its technological resources. By thoughtfully leveraging these assets in their communities, librarians can become central players in local development efforts. So, why aren't more public libraries fulfilling this potential?

There are many challenges involved in moving public libraries into the realm of economic development. Libraries may face resource limitations, and librarians often lack expertise in business research. Probably the greatest challenge involves shifting librarians' (or their boards') mindset toward outreach to the business community and creating a business-friendly organization. Often, this challenge results from lack of experience with development approaches or a past history of providing traditional library services such as summer reading programs.

The Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (Walzer and Stott 1998) conducted training with public librarians in rural communities to help them find new roles in supporting local economic development efforts. They report that library involvement usually "depends both on the personality and interests of the librarians as well as on opportunities for involvement in the community" (17). Further, they found that librarians often needed additional training in local development practices as well as in data analysis, presentation, and marketing techniques. Finally, they reported that some librarians experienced resistance from their library boards to spending time outside the library in the business community.

Myburgh (2003) refers to the "librarian mindset," characterized as "a focus on the library as the location of the profession, which has a physical presence, rather than on the skills and knowledge that librarians bring to it." Some librarians are reluctant to leave the confines of the building to become involved in business and community organizations. Library staff in smaller communities, especially, may feel they have insufficient time for outreach to the community because they spend so much time just "keeping the doors open."

Some Common Public Library Objections to Serving the Business Community

- "We can't show favoritism to one group (business owners). Our mandate is to meet the needs of all community members."
  Fact: Libraries always make choices about who they serve and how they distribute resources. Strategically allocating resources towards supporting business needs can contribute to the economic growth of the community, thus improving the quality of life for all.
- "Businesses can afford to pay for services from the private sector—that's not our job."
  Fact: Most small business owners have fewer than five employees and don't have the resources to pay for outside research or marketing services. Getting the right information can make a critical difference to their survival and success. The public library can provide the information small businesses need.

Even in the context of these many challenges, librarians in both small and large communities have re-envisioned the role of the library in community economic development. They have been rewarded with exciting new partnerships and success stories. These visionary librarians have set up small business information centers that offer reference services and online business databases, chaired local chamber of commerce committees (or even the chamber itself), offered classes to local business owners, partnered with local SCORE and Small Business Development Center counselors to provide business research to their clients, and collaborated with local workforce centers to train the public in searching and applying for job opportunities online.

Library System of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

Rhonda Kleiman (left) and Donna Brice, Lancaster Library System, at Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry Business Expo

Photo courtesy of Rhonda Kleiman

The Library System of Lancaster County serves a total population approaching 500,000, with a total of 14 member libraries. Several years ago, they partnered with the Lancaster County Planning Commission to create Biz Info to Grow (BIG), a set of five business information centers located in the central library in Lancaster and in four smaller community libraries. Librarian Rhonda Kleiman, Business Information Coordinator for the library system, has a background in special libraries and a passion for helping business owners.

The BIG information centers offer a wide variety of online business databases free-of-charge both on-site and via remote access. Kleiman and business reference librarian Diane Pawling assist business owners in using the databases as well as answer specific questions and provide customized research. Here are some examples of recent projects:

- A local investor wanted to purchase a former industrial building and turn it into a visual arts center. BIG staff provided demographics of local people who would support such a center off-season, demographics of people from the surrounding environs, and information about other models of successful visual arts centers such as the Torpedo Factory.
- A major engineering company wanted information on industrial parks located off interstate highways. Kleiman provided information about the typical build time of such parks from conception to completion and specific information about an industrial park being developed in a neighboring county.
- A national company that manufactures auto parts has a branch office in Lancaster County. The marketing manager wanted to identify distribution companies in Japan for their marketing campaign. Kleiman provided a targeted list of Japanese companies, and the client was thrilled. The library director said it was

the best PR the library could have provided since his company is a major contributor to the library.

- A small local toy manufacturer needed to find safety regulations for toy trains. BIG staff found the information for them on the Consumer Product Safety Commission and Toy Industry Association websites.
- A local jeweler was trying to find the total dollar amount spent on jewelry in Lancaster County. She had been spinning her wheels and not finding the information she needed. Kleiman found the information for her in about two minutes on the U.S. Census Bureau Economic Census website.

Kleiman and Pawling also make many presentations to business owners on the resources available to them—for example, how to find competitors and financial information online. Kleiman believes these presentations are far more effective than advertising in reaching their target audience. Impact statistics show that during 2006 there were nearly 1,500 requests for information from local business owners, and more than 600 would-be and established entrepreneurs attended the presentations.

The library staff is very visible in the community. Kleiman serves on the boards of several community workforce and business groups, including the venture capital task force of the Economic Development Company of Lancaster. According to Kleiman (2007), "[A]ll of these organizations view the Library System and our Biz Info to Grow program as a vital part of the county's economic development."

Success Story: Greeley Economic Gardening Project

Kelly Peters (2007), Economic Development Manager for the City of Greeley (population 87,000), Colorado approached the Weld Library District to gain support for the City's Economic Gardening program, which provides research services to local entrepreneurs. Two reference librarians stepped up to the plate and volunteered to do research projects for the businesses. Peters found that the public librarians, even though they had limited knowledge of business research at the outset of the project, were eager to learn. Along with two business librarians from the local community college and university, they created a small learning group that began meeting regularly to discuss business research tools and techniques. They also met with the businesses they were assisting to hear first hand what the business owners needed.

Peters reports that the librarians completed three large research projects in the first six months, including one supporting the county airport in its efforts to recruit aviation-related businesses to its industrial office space. For this project, they researched innovation and trends in the aviation industry, identified 20 companies that were likely targets for the airport's recruiting efforts, and created detailed profiles on each of the companies.

Cecil County Public Library Small Business Information Center

Located at the central library in Elkton (population 14,753), the Cecil County (Maryland) Public Library Small Business Information Center serves a county population of nearly 100,000. The center started with a $47,000 state grant, which was matched with local in-kind contributions of more than $13,000. The county commissioners have funded the center since grant funding expired.

Lera Chitwood, a librarian with both MLS and MBA degrees, staffs the center full time. She worked for many years in a corporate setting as a competitive intelligence professional and has also owned and operated a small business. In addition to assembling a collection of resources and providing business reference services, she has gone into the community to find partners, speaking at business and community group meetings. She now serves on several committees and works closely with Cecil Business Resource Partners, an informal network that includes the workforce center, Small Business Development Center, SCORE, community college, economic development office, and chamber of commerce.

Kabir Abubakar, Kebbi Web Hosting, LLC (www.kebbistate.com) (right) with Lera Chitwood, Small Business Librarian

Photo courtesy of Lera Chitwood

Chitwood (2007) believes in forming and sustaining ongoing relationships with business clients. Her hands-on approach

involves meeting with prospective and actual business owners to find out what they need: "They don't have money and they don't have time. I do much of the research and hand it to them." She typically sees more than ten clients a month and has assisted in the launch of 30 new businesses. Some of the businesses she has worked with include the following:

- A green technology company that developed a product that converts waste into water and energy and needed help getting it patented and to market. Chitwood provided the owner with in-depth statistics on the industries in which her product could be used, identified potential competitors, helped the owner convert her technical content into business terminology and projections needed in a business plan, and connected her to local experts who could help her apply for a patent and obtain funding. All of this assistance helped her win her first grant, an Aberdeen Technology Transfer Initiative grant for $57,000. Chitwood even went so far as to make her own garage available for the owner to develop her prototype and demonstrate her proof of concept.
- A man with dual citizenship in the U.S. and Nigeria wanted to create an Internet business that would serve the Nigerian market. Chitwood consulted with him about the details of starting an international web hosting business, including information about the ethics of the Internet, Internet development and cultural differences, the importance of domain extensions, how he could make an income with web hosting, and what content to include on the site. As a result of mutual connections with other Cecil Business Resource Partners, the chamber sponsored him to go on a government tour of Baltimore, and he received a scholarship to attend the Cecil Leadership Institute.

Many of the success stories are profiled on the Small Business Information Center website: www.cecil.ebranch.info/SuccessStories.htm.

Success Story: Libraries Mean Business

Ron Newlin, Consultant/Project Manager. The Indiana Cooperative Library Services Authority (INCOLSA), a statewide nonprofit membership cooperative of 770 public, school, and academic libraries, developed the Libraries Mean Business Program, a series of initiatives for the business and economic development community. The dual goals of this program are (1) to give business and economic development leaders a better awareness of the assets already available through all libraries in the state and (2) to identify additional business and community development needs that INCOLSA and its member libraries can help to meet. A team of reference library specialists in business research developed staff training and public programs that were delivered in 16 local communities between April 2006 and March 2007.

Several early success stories have emerged from the initiative (Newlin 2007). In one case, a roofing contractor attended one of the public programs in a suburb of Indianapolis. After learning about ReferenceUSA, he used it to create a list of addresses of houses affected by a recent hailstorm. The business owner returned to the library three months later to report that his marketing campaign using that list had generated $1 million worth of business.

Another success story involves a small public library that hosted a Libraries Mean Business program. The library's limited license to the ReferenceUSA database only allowed it to be used within the library. When the library staff demonstrated to local business leaders how to use the database to create sales leads and marketing lists, the local economic development corporation offered to pay to upgrade the library's subscription to make it available remotely.

Practical Steps for Creating Public Library/Economic Development Partnerships

In order for public library staff and community business leaders to create a productive partnership, librarians must get out into the community. Walzer and Gruidl (1998) recommend that library staff should be prepared to spend at least ten percent of their time in activities outside the library building. These forays into the community might include meeting with community leaders, such as the mayor, city council staff, and economic development staff, to learn about projects currently under way and the information resources needed to support these community efforts. Library staff can actively participate—and take on leadership roles—in business organizations such as the chamber of commerce. They can also invite business groups to hold meetings and offer workshops in the library as well as make presentations about library resources to business, economic development, and service groups.

Maxine Bleiweis (1997) suggests that libraries gather information from their potential business clients by holding focus groups, using written surveys and questionnaires, and conducting on-site business audits with business owners

to identify their most pressing needs. The library can then create service offerings to meet those expressed needs.

Numerous other opportunities exist for public libraries to partner with local economic development and business support efforts:

- Create and host networking opportunities such as early morning business meetings and brown bag lunches.
- Develop partnerships with other organizations that provide business services, including small business development centers, chambers of commerce, community colleges, workforce centers, and financial institutions. Meet with each organization's leadership to explore possibilities for collaboration. Attend their meetings, make presentations to their members and clients, and offer to host their meetings at the library.
- Create a small business information center in the library or at least a kiosk that offers basic business information and lists of local resources.
- Become active in local economic development and entrepreneurship support efforts such as downtown redevelopment authorities, Main Street programs, business retention and expansion (BRE) programs, venture capital clubs, and local merchants' associations.
- Work with the local SCORE chapter, or set up a mentorship program using retired business people to mentor new businesses.
- Track successes. Record new business start-ups as well as the number and types of reference questions answered. Collect case studies with anecdotal information. Publish small business success stories, and highlight local entrepreneurs on the library's website and bulletin board.

To take advantage of these opportunities, library staff may need training in the basics of business research and economic development. Training in economic development may be available through university-affiliated programs such as the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs and cooperative extension programs. Local chambers of commerce, small business development centers, and other business support organizations and consultants can help librarians understand the types of information local business owners need to be successful. Key information needs fall into the categories of marketing resources, competition, and industry or market information. Librarians can translate these information needs into appropriate resources and services such as the following:

- Online databases that business owners can access from their locations—These include ReferenceUSA and general business databases produced by EBSCO and Thomson Gale. These sources are often available through regional library consortia or the state library.
- Tip sheets that connect business owners' typical information needs with the print and online resources provided by the library—for example, the sources they could use to create a list of prospective customers or competitors, find industry information and key business ratios, and research a company.
- A folder of customized information for a business owner that includes articles, websites, trade associations, industry surveys, pertinent demographics, lists of possible competitors and customers, and other resources related to their business.
- A resource guide on how to start a business in the community—Make it available on the library's website (e.g., see Lancaster Library System's Business Start-up Toolkit, www.lancasterlibraries.org/lslc/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=467470). Provide links to local, state, and national business organizations and data.
- Telephone and online reference services that do not require business owners to come to the library for help
- A marketing campaign that targets newly registered businesses with a postcard describing the library's services and resources
- A monthly e-newsletter sent to local business owners who sign up that includes research tips, information resources, and examples of how businesses have used library resources
- A local business directory or database of targeted entrepreneurs—Local data is available through companies such as Dun & Bradstreet and ReferenceUSA as well as through city or county tax records. If the community is small, the public library can enlist local high school or community college students who are interested in business or entrepreneurship to compile and update the database through phone calls or field visits.
- Presentations on topics such as finding competitors and financial information online to be offered in the library or through the local small business development center, chamber of commerce, or community college
- Community fact sheets on local resources for finding employees, obtaining business loans, and addressing small business legal and insurance needs
- Demographics and market characteristics for the regional market area—Such data is often available through the U.S. Census Bureau.
- A list of free online resources for business research (see *Free and Low-Cost Resources for Supporting Local Entrepreneurs*, downloadable from www.growinglocaleconomies.com/resources)

with prospective clients. The CADL website also offers extensive resources and support for small businesses at www.cadl.org/answers/business/business-main.

Brian Miller, Director, Millington (Tennessee) Public Library. The Millington Public Library serves an economically challenged town of just over 10,000 people. Miller actively participates in local business and service organizations, such as the chamber of commerce and Rotary Club, as well as with local workforce initiatives. As a result of his efforts, business and community sponsorships of the library have increased by 30 percent, and he has achieved "better communication within the business community." A partnership with Southwest Community College has led to construction of a satellite distance learning classroom and state-of-the-art meeting room in the library to provide small business and career development services.

Cynthia Fuerst, Director, Kankakee (Illinois) Public Library. Fuerst took over a rundown library in an economically devastated downtown area in 1995. She applied for grants and hired a consultant to develop a space needs assessment and a fundraising consultant to determine the community's potential to pay for a new facility. When the mayor and a developer proposed that the library move into a vacant seven-story building along with some office spaces, it required cramming a multi-year building project into just one year. Her reaction was "Let's go!" Since then, the new library has opened, library statistics have skyrocketed, and the library has become the catalyst for downtown redevelopment. Her budget increased from $200,000 to $1.4 million. She credits her role as making the most of what she had, keeping an open mind, and being ready when the opportunity presented itself.

Conclusion

The small business sector is an important driver of economic growth in the local community. The public library is part of the local economy and possesses a variety of assets that can help local small businesses grow and thrive, thus contributing to the wealth and vitality of the community.

To accomplish this goal, libraries must create partnerships with the other players in local economic development efforts and take an active leadership role in reaching out to the business community. Such partnerships will prove beneficial to both the public library and the community it serves.

Resources

Public Libraries with Small Business Information Centers

Cecil County (Maryland) Public Library SBIC, www.cecil.ebranch.info/SmallBusinessInformationCenter.htm

Library System of Lancaster County (Pennsylvania), Business Information to Grow (BIG) centers, www.lancasterlibraries.org/lslc/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=466847#

Memphis (Tennessee) Public Library, www.memphislibrary.org/ftsbc/center2.htm

Pima County (Arizona) Business Information Center, www.library.pima.gov/research/business

Simsbury (Connecticut) Public Library, www.simsburylibrary.info/brc.htm

Small Business Information Center, the Business Library of the Brooklyn Public Library, www.biz.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/index.cfm/bay/content.research/pcatid/64/catid/94/cpid/91.htm

References

Barron, D. D., R. V. Williams, S. Bajjaly, J. W. Arns, and S. Wilson. 2005. *The economic impact of public libraries on South Carolina.* Columbia: University of South Carolina, College of Mass Communications and Information Studies, School of Library and Information Science. Retrieved November 20, 2007, from www.libsci.sc.edu/SCEIS/exsummary.pdf.

Bleiweis, M. 1997. *Helping business: The library's role in community economic development: A how-to-do-it manual.* New York: Neal-Schuman.

Chitwood, L. 2007. Telephone conversation, October 25; e-mail correspondence, November 13.

Edmiston, K. 2007. The role of small and large businesses in economic development. *Economic Review* (second quarter). Retrieved November 20, 2007, from www.kansascityfed.org/Publicat/econrev/er07q2.htm#business.

Glass, R. H., N. Clifford, B. Harris, and C. Rose. 2000. *The role of public libraries in local economic development.* Lawrence: Institute for Public Policy and Business Research, University of Kansas. Retrieved November 20, 2007, from www.ipsr.ku.edu/resrep/pdf/m260.pdf.

Griffiths, J-M., D. W. King, and S. E. Aerni. 2006. *Taxpayer return-on-investment (ROI) in Pennsylvania libraries.* Retrieved November 20, 2007, from www.statelibrary.state.pa.us/libraries/lib/libraries/PAROIreportFINAL7.pdf.

Imholz, S., and J. W. Arns. 2007. *Worth their weight: An assessment of the evolving field of library valuation.* New York: Americans for Libraries Council. Retrieved November 20, 2007, from www.actforlibraries.org/pdf/WorthTheirWeight.pdf.

Kleiman, R. 2007. Telephone conversation, August 3.

Macke, D., and D. Markeley. 2006. Entrepreneurship and rural America. *Rural Research Report 17*(4). Macomb: Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, Western Illinois University.

Miller, B. 2007. Telephone conversation, August 3; e-mail correspondence, June 13 and November 13.

Myburgh, S. 2003. Education directions for new information professionals. *Australian Library Journal 52*(3): 213-227. Retrieved November 20, 2007, from http://alia.org.au/publishing/alj/52.3/full.text/myburgh.html.

Newlin, R. 2007. Telephone conversation, August 3.

An open mind: Cynthia Fuerst: Kankakee Public Library, IL. 2005. *Library Journal 130*(5): 17.

Peters, K. 2007. Telephone conversation, July 31.

Roudebush, L. 2007. Telephone conversation, July 31.

Smith, J. C. 2007. Telephone conversation, November 14.

U.S. Small Business Administration. 2006. *The small business economy: A report to the President.* Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. Retrieved November 20, 2007, from www.sba.gov/advo/research/sbe.html.

Urban Libraries Council. 2007. *Making cities stronger: Public library contributions to local economic development.* Evanston, IL: Urban Libraries Council. Retrieved November 20, 2007, from www.urbanlibraries.org/files/making_cities_stronger.pdf.

Walzer, N., and J. Gruidl. 1996. The role of small public libraries in community economic development. *Illinois Libraries 78*(1): 50-56. Retrieved November 20, 2007, from www.lib.niu.edu/ipo/1996/il960150.html.

Walzer, N., and K. Stott. 1998. *Enhancing economic development through libraries.* Macomb: Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, Western Illinois University. Retrieved November 20, 2007, from www.iira.org/pubsnew/publications/IIRA_Reports_18.pdf.

Walzer, N., G. F. Hamm, and C. D. Merrett. 2007. Small business in rural Illinois. *Rural Research Report 18*(5). Macomb: Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, Western Illinois University.

Printed on recycled paper

It Takes a Library to Raise a Community

Marjatta Asu
Library Development Advisor
Ontario Library Service-North

Leanne Clendening
Chief Executive Officer
Ontario Library Service-North

Abstract

This paper is based on a conference presentation given by the authors at the Ontario Library Association Super Conference, held in Toronto, Ontario, January 31 – February 3, 2007.

Keywords: Community development; community building; capacity building; social inclusion; asset mapping

Introduction

In 2001, Ontario Library Service–North (OLS-North) conducted an environmental scan as part of its strategic planning process that highlighted many of the issues facing northern communities. Northern Ontario makes up almost 90% of the geography of the province and less than 10% of the population. Among the issues facing our communities are that they are isolated geographically and are reliant on resource-based industries such as mining and forestry. Community problems are further compounded by the reduced municipal tax base and the strains of additional services assumed by municipalities in the last decade.

When primary industries suffer, the communities suffer. When the community suffers economically, the public library suffers. Libraries must be seen as part of a solution to community problems by community leaders and primary funders. Libraries which are successful in promoting their value to the community often receive increased support from the municipality and from various community partners. These libraries demonstrate that public libraries are important partners in developing solutions to community problems.

As part of its commitment to assisting libraries with community development, OLS-North created a Library Development Advisor Promotion and Community Development position in February 2002.

OLS-North's latest strategic plan calls for the creation of five community development toolkits. It Takes a Library to Raise a Community: A Community Development Activities Tool Kit for Public Libraries is number one in the set. Its purpose is to set the stage for the remaining tool kits. This kit demonstrates, in practical and everyday ways, how libraries build communities.

In 2003, OLS-North received funding from the National Crime Prevention Strategy's Community Mobilization Fund to develop a series of workshops and a toolkit to help public libraries take a lead role in developing local crime prevention initiatives. Crime Prevention & Personal Safety for Your Library and Community, which is actually the second volume in the set of community development tool kits, was e-published in 2004.

Overview of Research

Throughout the 1990's and early into this decade, research into the role of public libraries in community development focused exclusively on a particular aspect of community development, such as the role of the library in supporting local economic development (Walzer and Stott 13). Works supporting the libraries' role in economic development include The Libraries Contribution to your community by dmA Planning and Management Services and Southern Ontario Library Service, and "Libraries as Equity Blocks" by Andrew Richard Albanese. In addition, some work has centered on the broader goal of sustainable communities (ALA), or building socially inclusive libraries (DCMS 12).

Research referred to when writing the community development kits may be accessed through the Ontario Library Service Clearinghouse of Professional Information - Community Development Resources. A link to this Clearinghouse is available on the OLS-North website (www.olsn.ca).

In A Place at the Table: Participating in Community Building, McCook advocates that librarians need to find their place at the community table (104-105). The absence of library representation in various community building movements in the United States is discussed (37-40). Key factors for successful community building (44-53), case studies of community-building librarians (55-68), and a new model of work for librarians who believe that community building must be a goal of public libraries are presented (94-107).

Values of community-building librarians are described by McCook (68-69). They include librarians who are committed to community building, who attend community meetings and who are actively involved. They are aware of, and can identify community issues. They believe it is important to work with the community and learn from the community, adapting library programs, services, and policies to meet the community's stated needs. As much as is possible, librarians believe in the importance of developing library services from a community-wide perspective. They believe in meaningful and inclusive collaborations. They believe that a strong community is a good place to live and work and libraries contribute to a better quality of life. Finally, community-building librarians believe the library can make a difference and that their library plays a strong role in the community. These values are reflected in the organization of OLS-North's community development tool kit "It Takes a Library to Raise a Community: A Community Development Activities Tool Kit for Libraries".

There should be a librarian at every table - every community meeting, every council meeting, and at community functions to ensure the library is not kept out of public planning (McCook 97-100). The library cannot work apart from community planning and expect to be remembered. *"As the library's presence in the community decreases, so does its value and visibility to the community"* (Markey).

The Engaged Library: Chicago Stories of Community Building (Urban Libraries Council 20) demonstrates, through case studies based on conversations with administrators and branch managers at the Chicago Public Library, the importance of recruiting staff who are community-minded, and training staff to build community connections to increase library relevance. The Engaged Library demonstrates practically how librarians who participate at the community table increase library relevance in their community.

The State Library of Victoria's publication, Libraries/Building/Communities (State Library of Victoria 23), documents the contribution of public libraries in four key areas: overcoming the digital divide, creating informed communities, promoting lifelong learning and literacy, and building social capital. This research project aims to demonstrate the impact of public libraries on the whole community.

The Working Together project was initiated by the Vancouver Public Library in March 2004 and will continue until April 2008. As part of this project, community development librarians work with socially excluded individuals and community organizations. The objective of the study is to use a community development approach to build community connections and relationships, and to identify and investigate systemic barriers to library use. A "lessons learned" tool kit and information session will be presented at a one-day pre-conference workshop at CLA in 2008.

Provincial Developments Impacting Public Libraries

Two important provincial developments that impact library positioning are the Municipal Cultural Planning Forums and Business Retention and Expansion. Municipal Cultural Planning Forums were introduced across Ontario in 2005. Created by municipal and provincial partnerships, the purpose of these forums was to bridge the gaps between provincial policy makers, municipal staff/associations, and the cultural sector. Municipal cultural planning examines the significance of culture in local economic development. It is "asset-based community development which aims to map broadly defined local cultural resources and leverage these resources for economic development and community building" (Baeker 2). Library boards must consider how the library contributes to local cultural planning and be represented at the community table.

Business Retention and Expansion (BR+E) is a community-based economic development strategy goal of the Ontario government. The focus is on supporting the development and growth of local businesses. BR+E depends on strong, committed local leadership and partnerships between local government, businesses, and agencies that support business development. How do libraries support BR+E? Small and home-based businesses can benefit from access to the library's computers, software, internet access, office equipment, print and online resources, and onsite training to use these resources. Located in a small north-eastern Ontario community, the Powassan and District Union Public Library provides access to software, hardware, and training. Staff assist and train business clients to design web pages and search for products online. Local businesses value the library's high speed internet access, computers, fax machine, and other office equipment. The library helps small businesses grow.

Community Development

At the Ontario Library Association's Super Conference, the It Takes a Library to Raise a Community session introduced terms commonly used in community development, as follows:

Community development is a process in which community members come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems (Frank and Smith 9). Community development builds relationships between individuals, local associations, and local institutions and is an essential tool for building a stronger community (Kretzmann and McKnight; Beaulieu 5). It requires community capacity to be built. Community capacity consists of all the people, skills and community resources needed to get things done. This combination of people's knowledge, skills, abilities, and gifts is referred to as human capital.

The main goal of community development is community sustainability – the ability of a community to continue to exist and thrive in spite of obstacles. Community or social sustainability expands the definition of sustainable development to include the social and cultural aspects of a community, building on human (or individual) capacity and social (or community) capacity (Berryman 19; State Library of Victoria 10).

Social capital is the glue that holds communities together (Centre for Urban Research and Learning 4). It requires that relationships be based on mutual trust and support. Social capital refers to the bonds that link people and organizations that are alike and the bonds that bring people from different backgrounds together (State Library of Victoria 24). Social capital creates a sense of identity and common purpose and helps bring about positive change (The World Bank Group). It helps create connections for employment opportunities (especially for those in communities with weak social connections), and provides links to funders and others with similar concerns. Social capital helps develop concepts beyond the capacity of the individual, group or business (State Library of Victoria 10-11).

Social inclusion is another aspect of social capital. An inclusive society gives isolated people better links to the community and brings excluded people into the community's decision-making process. Librarians believe in equitable access, and socially inclusive libraries deliver on that promise.

"Successful economic development depends upon social well being and not the other way around. An increase in social capital increases a community's productive potential and improves the chance that the community will be wealthier and healthier in the long term" (Libraries/Building/Communities 10).

Community Mapping

Community asset mapping is an important tool for building community, for understanding community strengths and assets, and for sustaining economic viability. It begins with the belief that local residents can play an important part in finding solutions to local problems. It may be used to identify the gifts, talents, strengths of individuals, citizen associations, and local institutions that make up the community. Community of interest defines a group of people by common cultural heritage, language, beliefs or shared interests, age, geographic location, and so on (Frank and Smith 7). People may belong to several communities at any one time.

Asset mapping asks, "What resources (assets) do we have in the community right now to address this problem ourselves? What capacities exist in our community?" (Kretzman & McKnight 346). It is the first step in promoting development of the community. Community development depends upon people working together to reach community goals. Asset mapping helps identify community resources that can be used for community building.

Community asset mapping focuses on the strengths and capacities in the community and the ability of a community to develop and grow. A needs assessment which focuses only on problems or the empty, deficient, and needy part of a community can be problematic. Under this model, old solutions that do not work often continue to be applied to problems (e.g., education problems to school boards, social services issues to human service agencies, economic development concerns to economic development, etc.). There may be little or no interaction between the agencies that deliver services. Thus, the dependency cycle continues for people targeted by these programs as little is done to build capacity (McKnight and Kretzman 18-19).

The It Takes a Library to Raise a Community tool suggests libraries identify community assets—the people, businesses and association and their skills, gifts, experiences – and how these can be used to build community. What do individuals (e.g., youth, elderly, artists, labeled people), citizens' associations (e.g., neighbourhood associations, churches, cultural groups), and local institutions (e.g., businesses, schools, colleges, hospitals, public spaces) bring to your community table? Local capacities are not an asset if they just exist in the community. Capacities must be identified and used for the community's development. What can the library do to help people in the community look at their community differently? It is suggested that boards contact community groups and agencies to find out whether a mapping process has been started in the community. If a process has been started, host a community meeting at the library to discuss community mapping. If not, consider initiating a mapping exercise in the community.

A Librarian at Every Table

Why is it important for the library to find its place at the community table? Libraries need to be aware of community issues and learn how they can be relevant in the lives of community members. Library directors, staff and trustees all have a role to play in community development. Libraries participate at the community table to "connect with, consult with, and collaborate with the community to deliver programs and services that can support community goals" (DeFaveri). Libraries need to recognize that community input is needed to develop programs and services that meet community needs, and that community goals determine how library programs are structured.

A strong community development approach is built on relationships. Staff and trustees should be encouraged to participate in areas where they have a strong personal interest to provide the most benefit for the library and the community. In smaller communities, it isn't reasonable to expect the librarian to fill this role alone. It's important for Boards and staff to *share* the work of positioning the library as a valuable community development partner. Community development literature refers to this as 'being a player' or 'being at the table'.

Libraries need a voice at the community table. Ontario Library Service–North's community development tool kit encourages library boards and staff to examine the values of the

community and of the library. Working through the kit will encourage discussion of the community's goals for its development and will help define the library's place at the community table. Worksheets and Checklists provided in the kit help to identify how the library currently supports community goals through its programs, services and partnerships, define future directions, and identify community connections needed to position the library at the community table.

Libraries and Capacity Building

What is the library's role in building community capacity? Education, training and skills development are considered key components of economic development (Broad 8). The public library's core business is developing 'human capital' (people knowledge and skills). In addition, libraries provide key support to economic development through direct job creation, contribution to cultural development of the local area, education, training and skills development, and the development of social capital and social inclusiveness. Public library programs and resources can help build capacity in key areas.

Library capacity

Library capacity consists of the people in the library, its culture, attitude, environment and appearance. It requires commitment to training to develop people skills. It requires libraries to identify and take advantage of opportunities and strengths. Capacity requires leadership, long range thinking and strategic planning; it requires that people who work at the library and live in the community believe they have the skills and resources to bring about positive change (Frank and Smith 10).

What are the abilities, talents and skills of people at the library right now? What kind of assistance would library staff be able to offer the community? Noah and Brickman describe capacity building for libraries and offer examples of library capacity-building efforts (Noah and Brickman 102). The authors identify action steps for librarians who want to develop and implement a plan to build library capacity.

How does one recognize that capacity is being built? The Community Development Handbook (Frank and Smith 11) identifies factors that confirm capacity is being built. "People are active, interested and participating in what is going on. People may also be questioning, challenging and debating – but they will be debating what should be done, not complaining that nothing will ever change. More people are getting involved, helping to identify key issues, and taking action. Results are becoming obvious and the abilities, esteem and resources of many communities are growing as capacity grows." These factors may also be used to indicate when library capacity is being built.

Public libraries can be critical participants in community building. Libraries provide community meeting space, facilitate access to computers and the internet, provide public access to critical information needed for community building, and facilitate community history and cultural projects. Libraries can bring experience in researching and compiling information sources for the community's development (McKnight & Kretzman 26).

Library as capacity builder

Identify the library's role as a community connector. Attend community meetings and events to raise awareness of community economic and social initiatives and to discuss how the library can help. Identify how the library can facilitate community meetings, forums, and events and be a catalyst for community building. Participating in community meetings may suggest potential partnership areas, including access to staff skills and abilities that are useful for community building. Use the library website to link local businesses, institutions, and community groups, and to offer content related to community issues.

Identify the library's role in building community skills. What skills, services and resources can the library provide? Communities benefit from access to library technology, computers and training; staff expertise in assessment, strategic planning and meeting management; writing grant applications, annual reports, policies and procedures, constitution and bylaws; budgeting and financial management; and building information databases (e.g., Access, Excel or Word). For example, the West Nipissing Public Library is located in north-eastern Ontario and provides library services to the communities of Sturgeon Falls, Verner, Field, Cache Bay, and River Valley, Ontario. Staff members at the library help develop capacity of municipal staff by providing access to material specific to their work - dealing with difficult people, customer service, and managing stress- and public access to the Ontario Municipal Act User Guide. Staff build awareness of library technologies and tools and teach municipal staff skills needed to use the technologies to find information using library resources.

Another piece of the local economy's puzzle identifies the value of the public library as a community and cultural centre – a community anchor. The Seattle Public Library's economic benefits study showed the new central library increased downtown livability, vitality and vibrancy. In northern Ontario, the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library's Churchill Plaza Branch has been recognized by the economic development office as a key tenant that attracts people to the plaza and provides spin-off benefits to retail establishments located in the mall (Strapp 12).

Lifelong learning is an important component of capacity building and is essential to community development. Library programs and services help to nurture a love of reading and learning and can influence a person's desire for lifelong learning. Libraries help people clarify their information needs and develop skills to search for information. Information literacy skills do not come naturally to many people and the library can play a role in developing capacity. Schools in smaller communities may not have the resources to teach students information literacy skills. Libraries can fill a much needed role in capacity building.

Public libraries support lifelong learning and information literacy as demonstrated in the following examples of small northern Ontario public libraries. The Chapleau Public Library and community partners provide literacy resources in English, French and First Nations languages on a wide variety of topics and skills. Help is offered in living skills including filling out forms, and study skills. The Mattawa Public Library has created a game to develop children's information literacy skills, and to teach them how to find resources in the library using the Dewey Decimal system, reference books, and the internet. Increased capacity is demonstrated by after-school kids who are self-sufficient in searching for information and manage with little or no assistance.

Culture "...is the glue that holds communities together and makes them last over generations.... Culture is the soul and life force of a community..." (Nozick 181)

Libraries fill an important role in developing community culture. Libraries help community members to: discover their roots at the library; develop their creative potential by accessing books and other resources such as the history of the arts and technical books; and nourish community identity and community culture. In north-eastern Ontario, the Powassan and District Union Public Library hosts an art gallery that displays the works of local artists who meet at the library to paint and mentor new artists. In north-western Ontario, the Rainy River First Nation Public Library offers space for elders to meet with children. The elder teaches the child quilting, beading, and leather work and the child teaches the elder to use computers and the internet. Ojibwa language classes are held at the library.

Nozick tells us that there "there has to be continuing, meaningful human interaction in order to create the social bonding which is a prerequisite to building community culture" (Nozick 196-197). How do libraries support the social development of communities? Library programs help build bonds across the community and bring people from different social and economic backgrounds together to connect and learn about each other. This can lead to referrals to potential employers or specialists or other opportunities for the individual. A children's program held at the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library included families of autistic children. This led to awareness and sensitivity of children with special needs and created bonds between parents and children alike, thus reducing the isolation of these families.

What do we mean by social inclusion and what is the library's role in creating an inclusive society? Socially inclusive libraries reach out to the community's marginal groups, providing services that meet their needs. These may include the unemployed, social assistance recipients, offenders, substance abusers, the illiterate, and many others. Library boards need to assess barriers in the library that could make this group feel less welcome. Barriers can include technology, rules, fines and charges, language, and a structured atmosphere (Campbell 3). How can our libraries reach out to these groups? The Blind River Public Library partnered with a community group to provide a meaningful part-time custodial job to a man who was "high functioning" and lived on his own. This individual worked under supervision with his coach for several months until they were certain he could tackle the job on his own. Work at the library helped build his self-esteem and social skills. The Blind River Public Library Board has found that there are more rewards than drawbacks by working with these groups.

Libraries fill an important role in building the skills needed to use the new technologies. The digital divide refers to the gap in access to new information, communication tools such as computers and the internet, and other related technologies. It also refers to the lack of skills, knowledge and abilities to use these technologies ("Digital Divide"). Libraries fill an important role in local access and training to use e-government initiatives. The digital divide isolates people who cannot afford the technologies and lack digital literacy skills or motivation to develop these skills. Powassan Public Library provides high speed access to the internet and teaches people how to use computers and the internet. Staff help people apply for government benefits online.

Conclusion

Community development as a process can help position public libraries in community building. Library boards need to assess community goals to identify whether the best library contributions can be made through board or staff involvement, the design of programs and

services, or community partnerships. Consider how the library's community connections, through its board members, staff and volunteers, may be used for community building. Identify strategies for positioning the library in community building. Raising the library's profile in the community through active participation and engagement with the community will ensure that the library's value will be communicated to library users, stakeholders, and the community at large.

It Takes a Library to Raise a Community: A community Development Activities Tool Kit will be made available to public libraries in Ontario following the Ontario Library Service-North Annual Conference in May 2007.

Works Cited

ALA. Libraries Build Sustainable Communities. ALA: Chicago, 2000. 25 May 2005.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/srrt/tfoe/lbsc/librariesbuildsustainablecommunitiesworkshops.htm>.

Albanese, Andrew Richard. "Libraries as Equity Building Blocks." Library Journal 15 May 2002. 29 March 2005.

<http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA75220.html>.

Asu, Marjatta and Leanne Clendening. It Takes a Library to Raise a Community. Session presented at the Ontario Library Association's

Super Conference. 1 Feb. 2007. <http://www.accessola2.com/

superconference2007/thurs/311/asu_clendening.ppt>.

Baeker, Greg. From Cultural Silos to Cultural Systems: Municipal Cultural Planning Forums – Lessons and Implications. The Corporate

Research Group, 2005. 14 August 2006.

<http://www.reddi.mah.gov.on.ca/userfiles/page_attachments/Library/6/843064_MCPF_Final_Report_05.pdf>.

Beaulieu, Lionel J. Mapping the assets of your community: A key component for building local capacity. Southern Rural Development

Center. 31 October 2006. <http://srdc.msstate.edu/publications/227/227_asset_mapping.pdf>.

Berk & Associates. The Seattle Public Library Central Library Economic Benefits Assessment: The Transformative Power of a Library to

Redefine Learning, Community, and Economic Development. 2005. 12 October 2005.

<http://www.berkandassociates.com/spl.html>.

Berryman, Jennifer. Sustaining Communities: Measuring the Value of Public Libraries. A report prepared for the State Library of New

South Wales. October 2005. 16 October 2006. <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/pln/projects/sustainingcommunities.pdf>.

Broad, Gayle. Boards and Community Capacity Building @ your library. Session presented at the Ontario Library Service-North Annual

Conference. 26 May 2005. <http://www.olsn.ca/downloads/conferences/2005-sessions/joint/605e-Boards-and-Community-

Capacity-Building-at-your-library.ppt>.

Campbell, Brian. "IN" versus "WITH" the community: Using a Community Development Approach to Public Library

Services. Feliciter 51.6 (2005): 271-273. <http://www.vpl.ca/HR/pdfs/Article1-Campbell.pdf>.

Centre for Urban Research and Learning. Asset-Based Community Building: Creating Social Capital to Build Neighbourhood as Better

Places to Live. Chicago: Loyola University. 25 January 2006.

<http://www.luc.edu/curl/projects/past/passport/docs/Unit10CommunityBuilding.pdf>.

DCMS. Libraries for All: Social Inclusion in Public Libraries. 1999. 10 January 2006. <http://www.culture.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/42818901-

0EA3-4AE5-B1C2-1689ABC069BD/0/Social_Inclusion_PLibraries.pdf>.

DeFaveri, Annette. Community Development in a Library Context. OLA Education Institute Audio Conference. 23 November 2006.

"Digital Divide." Webopedia. 29 March 2005. <http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/D/digital_divide.html>.

dmA Planning and Management Services and Southern Ontario Library Service. The Library's Contribution to the Community. Toronto:

Southern Ontario Library Service, 1998, 2007. <http://www.sols.org/publications/lctyc/index.htm>.

Frank, Flo and Anne Smith. The Community Development Handbook. Ottawa: Human Resources Development Canada, 1999. <http://

www1.servicecanada.gc.ca/en/epb/sid/cia/comm_deve/cdhbooke.pdf>.

Kretzmann, John P. and John L. McKnight. Building Communities from the Inside Out. Chicago, IL: ACTA Publications, 1993.

McCook, Kathleen de la Peña. A Place at the Table: Participating in Community Building. Chicago: American Library Association, 2000.

McKnight, John and John Kretzman. Sustaining Community-Based Initiatives Module 3: Community & Economic Development Chapter

2: Mapping Community Capacity. W. K. Kellogg Foundation. 1995. 24 August 2006.

<http://www.wkkf.org/DesktopModules/WKF.00_DmaSupport/ViewDoc.aspx?fld=PDFFile&CID=287&ListID=28&ItemID=10658&Lan

guageID=0>.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. BR+E Business Retention and Expansion. Government of Ontario. 17 November 2006.

<http://www.reddi.mah.gov.on.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts_6_20252_1.html>.

Markey, Penny S. "Community Collaboration and Outreach." Perspective Paper No. 6. Convocation on Providing Public Library Service

to California's 21st Century Population. 3 April 2006. <http://www.library.ca.gov/LDS/convo/convoc10.html>.

Noah, Carolyn and Alan Brickman. "Capacity Building for Libraries." Public Libraries March/April (2004): 102-107.12 July 2005.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/pla/plapubs/publiclibraries/43n2.pdf>.

Nozick, Marcia. No Place Like Home: Building Sustainable Communities. Ottawa: Canadian Council on Social Development, 1992.

<http://www.ccsd.ca/pubs/pubcat/nplh.htm>.

Ontario Library Service. Clearinghouse of Professional Information. Community Development Resources.

<http://www.library.on.ca/links/clearinghouse/communitydev/index.htm>.

Ontario Library Service-North. Crime Prevention and Personal Safety for YourLibrary and Community. Community Development Tool

#2. Sudbury: Ontario Library Service-North, 2004. <http://www.olsn.ca/downloads/cmp-kit/cmp-kit-english.pdf>.

Rodger, Eleanor Jo. "Helping Cities Work." Library Journal 126.9 (2001): 42-3.

State Library of Victoria. Libraries/Building/Communities. 2005. 25 January 2005. <http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/pdfs/aboutus/publications/

lbc_report1.pdf>.

Strapp, Bruce. Being Responsive to Your Community – Community Development Ideas. Session presented at the Ontario Library

Service-North Annual Conference. 26 May 2005. <http://www.olsn.ca/conferences-archive-2005.php>.

Urban Libraries Council. The Engaged Library: Chicago Stories of Community Building. Chicago: ULC, 2005. 1 June 2006.

<http://www.urbanlibraries.org/files/ULC_PFSC_Engaged_0206.pdf>.

Walzer, Norman and Karen Stott. Enhancing Economic Development Through Public Libraries. Macomb, IL: Illinois Institute for Rural

Affairs,1998. 20 September 2005. <http://www.iira.org/pubsnew/publications/IIRA_Reports_18.pdf>.

Working Together Project. 15 Feb 2007. <http://www.librariesincommunities.ca>.

The World Bank Group. Social Capital for Development. 12 July 2005. <http://www1.worldbank.org/prem/poverty/scapital/index.htm>.

Share55

Appendix C

Friends of the Legal Library Society Survey Results

147 respondents filled out the survey with 90% wanting a library.

Legal population in 2016: 1,345

The number of residents in Legal from 0-14 yrs. old is 335. This number was subtracted from the population as a whole with the following results:

1,345 (total residents) -335 (children 14 years and under) = 1,010 (residents over 15.)

Based on the number of survey respondents, we can use a statistical margin of error of 7.48% +/-. The total number of residents in Legal 15 years and older who are in favour of a library is therefore between **82.48% and 97.48%**; a very significant portion of the population.

****

Alternatively, we can look at the number of residents 20 years and older:

1,345 (total residents) -414 (children 19 years and under) = 931 (residents over 20.)

In this case we can use a statistical margin of error of 7.42% +/-. The total number of residents in Legal 20 years and older who are in favour of a library is therefore between **82.58% and 97.42%.**

This percentage difference is statistically insignificant for a population of 1,010. In either case, it is clear that the vast majority of Legal's population would be in favour of a library based on our data.

Survey Questions

1) Ages of household members (more than one category may be chosen):
   Under 12: 65.54% (97)
   13 -18:   26.35% (39)
   19 - 29:   14.19% (21)
   30 - 40:   56.08% (83)
   41 – 55:   29.73% (44)
   55 +:   22.30% (33)

2) Household Status (more than one category may be chosen):
   Single, Couple, Children in family
   Single: 14.86% (22)
   Couple: 75 %   (111)
   Children in   79.05% (117)
   Family

3) What does a library mean to you? Select the top three:
   Borrowing books and other media
   Access to computers and internet
   Access to programs
   Access to meeting rooms
   Borrowing books and other media: 92.47% (135)
   Access to computers and internet: 45.21% (66)
   Access to programs: 80.82% (118)
   (adult, youth, or senior programs; clubs such as book or gardening)
   Access to meeting rooms: 33.56% (49)
   Library is not necessary in our community: 6.85% (10)

4) What would be your reaction towards the development of a
   community centre/library in Legal?
   Very positive; somewhat positive; neutral; somewhat negative;
   Very negative:
   Very positive: 87.84% (130)
   Somewhat positive: 4.05% (6)
   Neutral: 6.08% (9)
   Somewhat negative: .68%   (1)
   Very negative: 1.35% (2)

5) If the service was available today, how likely are you to use it?
   Very likely, somewhat likely, neutral, somewhat unlikely, very unlikely:
   Very likely: 77.70% (115)
   Somewhat likely: 13.51% (20)
   Neutral: 2.74% (4)
   Somewhat unlikely: 1.35% (2)
   Very unlikely: 4.73% (7)

6) Are you interested in helping in this endeavour?
   Maybe; no not at all; yes please contact me:
   Maybe: 34.01% (50)
   No not at this time: 52.38% (77)
   Yes, please contact me: 13.67% (20)

7) Please feel free to leave additional comments:

3/22/2018 9:32PM
As parents to 5 children, we and as well as them would love to have the opportunity to have a library in town.

3/20/2018 11:25 PM
My family would really use a library if one was here.

3/20/2018 10:58 PM
I attend meetings, you have my info

3/20/2018 10:37 PM
I can't help out with it right now but if there was a library here my wife and kids especially would use it all the time.

3/20/2018 10:19 PM
I have encyclopaedias I can donate.

3/20/2018 10:12 PM
Awesome idea! Legal needs this.

3/20/2018 10:10 PM
I think a library is very much needed in Legal. I have a 8 month old and I would love to be able to take him to the library since we cannot get to Morinville.

3/20/2018 10:09 PM
I believe a library will be a huge community builder to bring multiple generations together.

3/20/2018 10:04 PM
I think a lot of people would use a library here. My kids would for homework research and if there are groups and hints to do then it would be a really good thing for Legal.

3/20/2018 10:02 PM
I have lots of books I can donate.

3/20/2018 9:38 PM
This town really needs more things here to keep people from leaving. Not just moving away but on a day to day basis. Some people are into sports, but I don't know any of them. All of my friends and family in town would use a library here multiple times per week - especially since there's usually programs and fun activities, challenges for the kids, etc. As much as I love Legal, there's something big missing and this is it.

3/6/2018 8:46 AM
I don't feel a library is necessary.

3/6/2018 8:45 AM
I am not interested in a library for myself, but feel it is good for the town.

3/6/2018 8:41 AM
I would enjoy having a library I can go to for audio books.

3/5/2018 1:07 PM
A necessity for the town.

3/1/2018 5:11 AM
It would be great to have a library in Legal. Every community should have one!

2/19/2018 9:56 PM
My wife and 3 kids used the library several times per week in our previous community. We were disappointed in having to travel to another town to use a library, and honestly haven't been using them as often because it is a long drive to get to them for regular and quick visits.

1/20/2018 10:11 PM
I think the library would be a wonderful addition to a family town. It would be essential for people of all ages!

12/7/2017 11:07 PM
I am already involved

12/2/2017 11:25 AM
I am so happy to find out that there are people interested in having a library in Legal!!!

12/2/2017 10:17 AM
Okay

11/18/2017 6:43 PM
☺

11/16/2017 9:33 PM
I would like to see the new library accessible through province-wide MELibarary system through one of the networks like TRAC (used in Morinville and others).

11/16/2017 8:15 PM
☺

10/27/2017 9:52 AM
I think it's a great idea, and I would be willing to help depending on the dates/times.

10/26/2017 9:21 PM
I've tried to be involved... very busy so difficult to find the time but I'm interested.

10/25/2017 7:36 PM
This would be an excellent addition to our town!

10/24/2017 11:00 AM
I would love for our community to have an amazing new feature so that people in the community have a place to access, to hang out or to do a event or program!!

10/22/2017 1:14 PM
I think a library in Legal would be an excellent community assets, we use the Morinville library on a weekly basis for my our whole family and it is great for our kids who are in elementary school to have access to new reading material which helps stimulate their interest in reading.

10/20/2017 2:50 PM
A library is an excellent investment in the community and it's citizens

10/18/2017 9:18 AM
If we made our library public I could constantly read as I really love to do. Plus it would give a chance for others to express their love as well.

10/17/2017 9:31 AM
I would definitely use it if there are French books. I would like to help with it.

9/15/2017 9:55 AM
I might be able to help but part time only if I am not called for work as I am on call.

9/11/2017 11:45 AM
Let's survey how many households do not have a computer? What programs/computer and internet classes would the library offer that can't be done through other avenues such as the Town Office, Legal School, Ecole Citadelle, ACFA? We have a meeting room in Legal that is available at no charge? Maybe we need to look at what we currently have in our community and see how we can utilize the present facilities and resources to enhance what we have. This may be a more financially viable alternative.

9/8/2017 11:49 PM
I love this idea. I was one of the people who suggested it.

9/8/2017 12:20 PM
I think this is a great idea. I moved here from Morinville and was very disappointed there was no library here.

9/8/2017 11:18 AM
Little free library all around town could be nice too.

9/8/2017 10:48 AM
I am currently attending the Morinville library. If there is no Legal library, I would love to see Morinville one supported by Legal.

9/8/2017 10:29 AM
So excited for this

9/8/2017 10:22 AM
This would open so many doors for our children

9/8/2017 10:06 AM
This would be an incredible addition to our community!

9/8/2017 9:35 AM
I would absolutely LOVE a library!! I have been tempted to go to Morinville or St. Albert to get a pass.. at home would be MUCH better! And great for the children of the community as well!! I am willing to help where I can, I am expecting and have a 3 year old at home.. so I am unfortunately limited a bit!

9/8/2017 9:35 AM
Good Luck! I hope it comes to fruition.

9/8/2017 9:23 AM
This is so exciting! Love this!

9/8/2017 9:19 AM
Feel free to contact me if help is needed and if I think I can help I will.

9/8/2017 9:13 AM
Awesome idea!

9/8/2017 8:51 AM
Look forward to seeing the results of this survey.

Appendix D

What does a library in Legal mean to you?

One third

of Legal School students mentioned reading for fun and their love of books.

2 dozen

pupils think a library is a great place to socialize and would be a **community builder**

1 in 5

think a comfortable seating area will be an asset and would like to see a Lego/ blocks club.

nineteen

would appreciate a quiet place to go to to read and to study or finish homework.

1/4

envision a library with lots of books and shelves.

22 percent

said "I love libraries!"

twenty one%

want: computers
coding club
free Wi-Fi
as well as a place to play

Book fairs & books for sale

are desired by 19% of the students hoping to build their reading material collections at home.

18% love the idea of a **local library** because it means it would be **accessible to all** residents. Students overwhelmingly agreed that **staying in town** for programs and services is a **major benefit** to this project.

What does a library in Legal mean to you?

"It would be cool and good for the town." (#67)

"I think it would be a nice thing to have because it would bring people of Legal together and I'm sure there would be a lot of fun programs to participate in." (#68)

"Since a library is quiet, you can go there to study for a test or you could go there to do homework, also whenever you want a book you can go to a public library that's close to where you live. I think it would be great if you guys opened a public library, I think everyone would love it." (#74)

"It is warm and a nice place to hang out with your friends." (#64)

"My babysitter could take us there." (#40)

"I think a library is a wonderful place to learn." (#30)

"It means that we don't have to go all the way to Morinville to get books." (# 80)

"Free Wi-Fi and stuff to do." (#83)

I think a library will be great in Legal because we will grow the town." (#85)

"Well, I think it would be good for Legal because I love to read and lots of people would like to go there. So I think it's a really good idea!" (#88)

"It means a lot to me because I love reading books." (#92)

"Having a library in Legal would be super good. Kids can take out books, go in programs and have lots of fun activities. I would be going there lots." (#89)

"I would like a public library because I love reading and stories." (#105)

"We won't have to drive to St. Albert to go to the library. It's fun to read." (#87)

"I would love a library." (#98)

One third

of Legal School students mentioned reading for fun and their love of books.

2 dozen

pupils think a library is a great place to socialize and would be a
community builder

1 in 5

think a comfortable seating area will be an asset and would like to see a Lego/ blocks club.

nineteen

would appreciate a quiet place to go to to read and to study or finish homework.

1/4

envision a library with lots of books and shelves.

22 percent

said "I love libraries!"

twenty one%

want: computers
coding club
free Wi-Fi
as well as a place to play

Book fairs & books for sale

are desired by 19% of the students hoping to build their reading material collections at home.

18% love the idea of a **local library** because it means it would be **accessible to all** residents. Students overwhelmingly agreed that **staying in town** for programs and services is a **major benefit** to this project.

Grade 1/2 Class at Legal School - Responses, Comments, & Ideas

What does a library in Legal
mean to you?

"It means reading to me
and a craft club and
building area."

(#11)

Grade 2/3 Class at Legal School - Responses, Comments, & Ideas

52%

48%

35%

30%

26%

22%

What does a library in Legal
mean to you?

"I get to take out books and I can go there
on weekends with my mom." (#40)

"Reading. I love quiet and researching.
I think a library is a wonderful
place to learn." (#30)

Grade 4 - 9 Classes at Legal School - Responses, Comments, & Ideas

45% I love books/ Reading

42% Reading for fun

34% Socialize/ Community builder

31% I love libraries
Not having to leave town/
Accessibility

29% Quiet study area/ like quiet

27% Lots of books

23% Place to hang out/ Youth Group

19% Taking books to bring home   13%

16% Employment opportunities
Able to go on weekends/
in summer
Computers/ Coding/ Wi-fi

What does a library in Legal
mean to you?

"During Spring or Summer break you
can just walk to the library and not have to
go to Morinville just to get a book." (#47)

"I like the idea. It will bring a lot of
opportunities to the community."
(#51)

Grades 1 & 2 (20 Responses)

List #	# of ✓	%	Response
1	15	75.0%	Place to play
2	13	65.0%	Book fairs /Books for sale
3	9	45.0%	Lego club/ Building club/ Blocks
4	8	40.0%	Comfortable area/ Couches/ Carpet
5	8	40.0%	Tables for DIY crafts/ Desks
6	7	35.0%	Chapter books
7	5	30.0%	Robotics club
8	5	25.0%	Play club/ Games/ Video games
9	5	25.0%	Reading club
10	5	25.0%	Summer reading camp/ Program
11	4	20.0%	Craft club/ Craft programs
12	2	10.0%	Computers/ Coding club/ Wi-fi
13	2	10.0%	Lots of books/ Shelves/ Organized
14	2	10.0%	Minecraft club
15	2	10.0%	Plants/ Garden
16	1	5.0%	Reading for fun
17	1	5.0%	Stuffed animals to read to
18	1	5.0%	Taking books to bring home

Grades 2 & 3 (23 Responses)

List #	# of ✓	%	Response
1	12	52.2%	Computers/ Coding club/ Wi-fi
2	11	47.8%	Comfortable area/ Couches/ Carpet
3	8	34.8%	Lots of books/ Shelves/ Organized
4	7	30.4%	Book fairs /Books for sale
5	7	30.4%	Lego club/ Building club/ Blocks
6	7	30.4%	Place to play
7	7	30.4%	Sports club /Sports books
8	6	26.1%	Makerspace
9	6	26.1%	Reading for fun
10	5	21.7%	Math club
11	5	21.7%	Reading club
12	5	21.7%	Tables for DIY crafts/ Desks
13	4	17.4%	Craft club/ Craft programs
14	4	17.4%	I love books/ Reading
15	4	17.4%	I love Libraries
16	4	17.4%	Minecraft club
17	4	17.4%	Play room/ Toys
18	4	17.4%	Story times
19	3	13.0%	Bright pictures/ Bright lights
20	3	13.0%	Learning
21	3	13.0%	Meeting rooms
22	3	13.0%	Plants/ Garden
23	3	13.0%	Socialize/ Community builder
24	2	8.7%	Taking books to bring home
25	2	8.7%	Play club/ Games/ Video games
26	2	8.7%	Quiet study area/ Like the quiet
27	2	8.7%	Research
28	2	8.7%	Writing program/ Club
29	1	4.3%	Able to go on weekends/summer
30	1	4.3%	Can go with mom/ Family
31	1	4.3%	Place to hang out/ Youth Group
32	1	4.3%	Printers
33	1	4.3%	Robotics club
34	1	4.3%	Stuffed animals to read to
35	1	4.3%	Summer reading camp/ Program
36	1	4.3%	Water table
37	1	4.3%	Work out room
38	1	4.3%	NOT INTERESTED

Grades 4 – 9 (62 responses)

List #	# of ✓	%	Response
1	28	45.2%	I love books/ Reading
2	26	41.9%	Reading for fun
3	21	33.9%	Socialize/ Community builder
4	19	30.6%	I love Libraries
5	19	30.6%	Not having to leave town/ Accessibility
6	18	29.0%	Quiet study area/ Like the quiet
7	17	27.4%	Lots of books/ Shelves/ Organized
8	14	22.6%	Place to hang out/ Youth Group
9	12	19.4%	Taking books to bring home
10	10	16.1%	Employment opportunities
11	8	12.9%	Able to go on weekends/summer
12	8	12.9%	Computers/ Coding club/ Wi-fi
13	6	9.7%	Play club/ Games/ Video games
14	6	9.7%	Writing program/ Club
15	5	8.1%	Craft club/ Craft programs
16	5	8.1%	Learning
17	5	8.1%	Lego club/ Building club/ Blocks
18	5	8.1%	Math club
19	5	8.1%	Minecraft club
20	5	8.1%	Reading club
21	5	8.1%	Robotics club
22	5	8.1%	Sports club /Sports books
23	4	6.5%	Summer reading camp/ Program
24	3	4.8%	Tables for DIY crafts/ Desks
25	3	4.8%	NOT INTERESTED
26	2	3.2%	Comfortable area/ Couches/ Carpet
27	2	3.2%	Volunteer opportunities
28	1	1.6%	Makerspace
29	1	1.6%	Research
30	1	1.6%	Story times

Legal School (105 responses)

List #	# of ✓	%	Response
1	33	31.4%	Reading for fun
2	32	30.5%	I love books/ Reading
3	27	25.7%	Lots of books/ Shelves/ Organized
4	24	22.9%	Socialize/ Community builder
5	23	21.9%	I love Libraries
6	22	21.0%	Computers/ Coding club/ Wi-fi
7	22	21.0%	Place to play
8	21	20.0%	Comfortable area/ Couches/ Carpet
9	21	20.0%	Lego club/ Building club/ Blocks
10	20	19.0%	Book fairs /Books for sale
11	20	19.0%	Quiet study area/ Like the quiet
12	19	18.0%	Not having to leave town/ Accessibility
13	16	15.2%	Tables for DIY crafts/ Desks
14	16	15.2%	Taking books to bring home
15	15	14.3%	Place to hang out/ Youth Group
16	15	14.3%	Reading club
17	13	12.4%	Craft club/ Craft programs
18	13	12.4%	Play club/ Games/ Video games
19	12	12.4%	Robotics club
20	12	12.4%	Sports club /Sports books
21	11	10.5%	Minecraft club
22	10	9.5%	Math club
23	10	9.5%	Summer reading camp/ Program
24	10	9.5%	Employment opportunities
25	9	8.6%	Able to go on weekends/summer
26	8	7.6%	Learning
27	8	7.6%	Writing program/ Club
28	7	6.6%	Chapter books
29	7	6.6%	Makerspace
30	5	4.8%	Plants/ Garden
31	5	4.8%	Story times
32	4	3.8%	Play room/ Toys
33	4	3.8%	NOT INTERESTED
34	3	2.9%	Bright pictures/ Bright lights
35	3	2.9%	Meeting rooms
36	3	2.9%	Research
37	2	1.9%	Stuffed animals to read to
38	2	1.9%	Volunteer opportunities
39	1	1.0%	Can go with mom/ Family
40	1	1.0%	Printers
41	1	1.0%	Water table
42	1	1.0%	Work out room

Friends Of Legal Library Society
Legal School Presentation March 21, 2018 – Data Report
Comments & Ideas

The grades 1 to 9 students of Legal School were given a presentation on the project being worked on by the Friends Of Legal Library Society and participated in a brief discussion on the types of services and programs that libraries can provide. The response was overwhelmingly positive and there was a conversation with each group about the types of things the students would like a library in Legal to include. The students were asked to write or draw what they love about libraries, and the resulting comments have been gathered here for review. Please note that comments that were solely in list form have been omitted from this report – see the full Data Compilation Report for more detailed results. Comments have been edited for spelling errors only.

Grade 1 & 2 class

"It means reading to me and a craft club and building area." (#11)

Grade 2 & 3 class

"People can research and practice reading, reading clubs, math clubs and just have fun reading." (#22)

"I want a library that has sports in it." (#23)

"I like it because it is quiet. I like buying books. I like libraries so much. I like it because the books are organized." (#25)

"A place that people can read. What I would like to see Stephen King books and a computer for Fort Nite [a game]." (#26)

"Reading. I love quiet and researching. I think a library is a wonderful place to learn." (#30)

"I don't want a library." (#31) (No reason given.)

"They might have sports books and hockey books and a lot of McDavid books to make me go to the NHL." (#35)

"It means you get to take books out. I love libraries because I love books." (#36)

"I love about libraries is books to read." (#39)

[What a library means to me:] **"is I get to take out books and I can go there on weekends with my mom.** Ipads, baby play center, paint days, makerspace, meeting room, book fairs, summerclub, get authors to come read their books, pet day. Why I would like a baby play center is because **my babysitter could take us there** and the babies could play. Sports center, garden to read [in], fairy garden day, plant day." (#40)

"A library means that you get to read books and read more!" (#41)

Grades 4 to 9

"It doesn't really matter to me because I live outside of Legal and I would basically never go to the library and I don't read anyways." (#44)

"Great place to hang out and get a job." (#45)

"It is a nice and quiet place and place you can go volunteer and also work there, and a good place to hang out." (#46)

"During Spring or Summer break you can just walk to the library and not have to go to Morinville just to get a book, it would be a good place for people to study for exams and to socialize with other people." (#47)

"It means that **you can pick out books whenever you want** and you can read any books." (#48)

"I don't really think a library is necessary. It feels like a waste of money." (#49)

"I would like a library because **I like to read books but I don't have many** so if we had a library I can have books all the time." (#50)

"I like the idea. It will bring a lot of opportunities to the community." (#51)

"I don't really want one but I also kind of do because it's good for a job and also a place to hangout?" (#52)

"I don't want one because I think we'll waste money on what we have in both schools." (#53)

"I think a library would be a great idea! It might help kids read more." (#54)

"I think a library would be a great thing. It would give chances to kids. It would help kids with jobs." (#55)

"It can be a hang out place, to maybe study on school work or books. And we can see other peoples' perspectives by talking to everyone." (#56)

"It can be a place to study with friends. And a good job opportunity." (#57)

"Means more people could technically get more jobs, for teens who could use the money for a starter car." (#58)

"I think it would be a good idea, it can help kids read more, offer more jobs to people, and **maybe bring everyone a little closer.**" (#59)

"I think it's a good idea because lots of people love reading and good opportunity for jobs & stuff going on in town & library." (#60)

"To hang with my boys and study." (#61)

"Somewhere to hang out and play games with friends." (#62)

"Being able to work somewhere with people." (#63)

"It is warm and a nice place to hang out with your friends." (#64)

"A quiet place to study and research things on computer." (#65)

"It would be cool and good for the town." (#67)

"I think that it would be a nice thing to have because it would bring people of Legal together and I'm sure there would be a lot of fun programs to participate in." (#68)

"Reading has always kept me close to my grandfather who always read to me when I was upset or I was at his house." (#69)

"I would want a library because it would be someplace quiet for me to go, and someplace where I can chill out with my friends." (#71)

"It would be nice to have a library because it could be a quiet place to read or do homework. A library would be good to have in Legal because it could be a quiet place to just be there by yourself or even with friends." (#72)

"I would love a library for **a place to study**, and take out books that they don't have here [at school]." (#73)

"Since a library is quiet, you can go there to study for a test or you could go there to do homework, also whenever you want a book you can go to a public library that's close to where you live. And I think it would be great if you guys opened a public library I think everyone would love it." (#74)

"I love libraries because when I pick a book over the summer." (#75)

"So that I can read and learn more about other stuff so that's why I would like a library in Legal." (#76)

"So we can get books in Summer and it can help kids to learn with the programs so overall it would be a great idea!" (#77)

"It would be nice because I like to read and it could be good for studying because it's quiet." (#78)

"I think that a library is a place you can go to study, learn, read, and write." (#79)

"It means that we don't have to go all the way to Morinville to get books." (#80)

"I like to pick out a book and sit down to relax and read a nice book." (#81)

"A library is important to me because I like reading and I enjoy the books." (#82)

"Free wi-fi and books and stuff to do." (#83)

"It would be a place to study for tests and read, or have some time alone. You could also have a really good learning environment." (#84)

"I think a library will be great in Legal because we will grow the town." (#85)

"I would like a library because it would be a quiet place to go do homework with my friends and get to take out books." (#86)

"We won't have to drive to St. Albert to go to the library. It's fun to read." (#87)

"Well, I think it would be good for Legal because I love to read and lots of people would like to go there. So I think it's a really good idea!" (#88)

"Having a library in Legal would be super good. Kids can take out books, go in programs and have lots of fun activities. I would be going there lots." (#89)

"I would love to have a library in Legal it will help people communicate better. I love to read!" (#90)

"It means a lot to me because I love reading books." (#92)

"I like libraries because they are always quiet. And I love reading too because it makes me calm." (#93)

"I love to read, my friends call me a book worm so I totally agree with the idea of putting a library in Legal." (#94)

"I love reading and picking out interesting books like comic books." (#95)

"A place to read and find a good book." (#95)

"You get to take out books and we get program things." (#96)

"I would love a library." (#98)

"I love reading, it makes me happy." (#99)

"They are nice and quiet and awesome. You can read." (#100)

"I love the books because you can get smart and if you're bored you can read." (#101)

"I would like a library so I can go read in silence." (#102)

"It means a lot to me. I would like to see it organized." (#103)

"I agree to putting a library because I like to read and I could start reading more!" (#104)

"I would like a public library because I love reading and stories." (#105)

Friends Of Legal Library Society - Legal School Presentation Data Compilation Report

*1 – 20 is Grade 1 & 2 Students

Category	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Not having to leave town/ Accessibility																				
Volunteer opportunities																				
Employment opportunities																				
NOT INTERESTED																				
Writing program/ Club																				
Work out room																				
Water table																				
Taking books to bring home																				1
Tables for DIY crafts/ Desks				1	1	1				1		1		1				1		1
Summer reading camp/ Program	1					1	1							1				1		
Stuffed animals to read to			1																	
Story times																				
Sports club /Sports books																				
Socialize/ Community builder																				
Robotics club										1		1			1	1	1	1		
Research																				
Reading for fun											1									
Reading club	1					1							1	1				1		
Quiet study area/ Like the quiet																				
Printers																				
Play room/ Toys		1														1	1	1		1
Play club/ Games/ Video games																				
Plants/ Garden			1																	1
Place to play	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1				1	1	1
Place to hang out/ Youth Group																		1		
Minecraft club						1												1		
Meeting rooms																				
Math club																				
Makerspace																				
Lots of books/ Shelves/ Organized																	1			1
Lego club/ Building club/ Blocks		1	1			1				1	1	1			1		1	1		
Learning																				
I love Libraries																				
I love books/ Reading																				
Craft club/ Craft programs		1		1							1									1
Computers/ Coding club/ Wi-fi						1												1		
Comfortable area/ Couches/ Carpet			1	1	1		1		1				1	1						1
Chapter books				1	1		1	1						1					1	1
Can go with mom/ Family																				
Bright pictures/ Bright lights																				
Book fairs /Books for sale	1			1	1		1	1					1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Able to go on weekends/summer																				

Friends Of Legal Library Society - Legal School Presentation Data Compilation Report

Option	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43
Not having to leave town/ Accessibility																							
Volunteer opportunities																							
Employment opportunities																							
NOT INTERESTED											1												
Writing program/ Club				1												1							
Work out room				1																			
Water table												1											
Taking books to bring home				1												1				1			
Tables for DIY crafts/ Desks																1			1	1	1		1
Summer reading camp/ Program																				1			
Stuffed animals to read to				1																			
Story times				1	1			1														1	
Sports club /Sports books	1		1	1					1						1			1		1			
Socialize/ Community builder													1				1		1				
Robotics club				1																			
Research		1								1													
Reading for fun		1		1						1										1	1		1
Reading club		1		1				1					1									1	
Quiet study area/ Like the quiet					1					1													
Printers				1																			
Play room /Toys				1								1				1				1			
Play club/ Games/ Video games				1			1																
Plants/ Garden													1							1			1
Place to play				1				1				1				1				1		1	1
Place to hang out/ Youth Group													1										
Minecraft club				1				1									1					1	
Meeting rooms				1									1							1			
Math club		1		1				1								1		1					
Makerspace				1											1	1				1	1		
Lots of books/ Shelves/ Organized			1		1	1						1	1						1		1		1
Lego club/ Building club/ Blocks				1					1			1				1	1	1				1	
Learning										1							1					1	
I love Libraries					1					1						1			1				
I love books/ Reading					1											1			1		1		
Craft club/ Craft programs				1																1	1	1	
Computers/ Coding club/ Wi-fi				1		1		1				1	1	1		1	1	1		1	1		1
Comfortable area /Couches/ Carpet				1	1	1							1	1		1		1	1	1		1	1
Chapter books																							
Can go with mom/ Family																				1			
Bright pictures/ Bright lights				1								1				1							
Book fairs /Books for sale	1			1	1							1	1							1		1	
Able to go on weekends/summer																				1			

Page 2 of 6

* 21 - 43 is Grade 2 & 3 Students

Friends Of Legal Library Society - Legal School Presentation Data Compilation Report

#	Able to go on weekends/summer	Book fairs /Books for sale	Bright pictures/ Bright lights	Can go with mom/ Family	Chapter books	Comfortable area/ Couches/ Carpet	Computers/ Coding club/ Wi-Fi	Craft club/ Craft programs	I love books/ Reading	I love Libraries	Learning	Lego club/ Building club/ Blocks	Lots of books/ Shelves/ Organized	Makerspace	Math club	Meeting rooms	Minecraft club	Place to hang out/ Youth Group	Place to play	Plants/ Garden	Play club/ Games/ Video games	Play room/ Toys	Printers	Quiet study area/ Like the quiet	Reading club	Reading for fun	Research	Robotics club	Socialize/ Community builder	Sports club/ Sports books	Story times	Stuffed animals to read to	Summer reading camp/ Program	Tables for DIY crafts/ Desks	Taking books to bring home	Water table	Work out room	Writing program/ Club	NOT INTERESTED	Employment opportunities	Volunteer opportunities	Not having to leave town/ Accessibility
44																																							1			
45																		1																						1		
46																		1						1																1	1	
47	1												1											1					1						1							1
48	1												1													1									1				1			1
49																																										
50	1								1				1													1									1							1
51																													1											1	1	1
52																		1																						1		
53																										1													1			
54									1	1																														1		
55										1														1					1													
56																		1						1					1											1		
57																		1																						1		
58																													1											1		
59																								1		1			1											1		
60																										1			1													
61							1						1					1						1					1													
62																		1			1								1													
63							1											1											1											1		
64							1											1																								
65																								1			1															
66													1																													

Page 3 of 6

* 44 – 105 is Grades 4-9 Students

Student	Able to go on weekends/summer	Book fairs /Books for sale	Bright pictures/ Bright lights	Can go with mom/ Family	Chapter books	Comfortable area /Couches/ Carpet	Computers/ Coding club/ Wi-fi	Craft club/ Craft programs	I love books/ Reading	I love Libraries	Learning	Lego club/ Building club/ Blocks	Lots of books/ Shelves/ Organized	Makerspace	Math club	Meeting rooms	Minecraft club	Place to hang out/ Youth Group	Place to play	Plants/ Garden	Play club/ Games/ Video games	Play room/ Toys	Printers	Quiet study area/ Like the quiet	Reading club	Reading for fun	Research	Robotics club	Socialize/ Community builder	Sports club/ Sports books	Story times	Stuffed animals to read to	Summer reading camp/ Program	Tables for DIY crafts/ Desks	Taking books to bring home	Water table	Work out room	Writing program/ Club	NOT INTERESTED	Employment opportunities	Volunteer opportunities	Not having to leave town/ Accessibility
67																													1													
68							1	1				1			1		1	1			1				1			1	1	1			1					1				
69									1																	1																
70							1						1											1																		
71																		1						1					1													
72										1								1						1		1			1													1
73	1									1														1											1							
74	1								1	1			1											1					1						1							1
75	1									1	1																															1
76									1	1	1															1									1							1
77	1						1	1		1		1			1		1				1			1	1			1		1			1	1				1				1
78									1															1		1																
79											1															1												1				
80									1																	1									1							1
81						1			1																	1																
82									1	1																																
83							1	1				1	1	1	1		1	1			1			1	1	1		1	1	1			1	1				1				
84						1					1																															
85																													1													1
86									1	1								1						1					1						1							1
87									1																	1																1
88									1																				1													1
89								1	1	1		1			1		1	1			1				1			1	1	1				1	1			1				1

* 44 – 105 is Grades 4-9 Students

#	Able to go on weekends/summer	Book fairs /Books for sale	Bright pictures/ Bright lights	Can go with mom/ Family	Chapter books	Comfortable area/ Couches/ Carpet	Computers/ Coding club/ Wi-fi	Craft club/ Craft programs	I love books/ Reading	I love Libraries	Learning	Lego club/ Building club/ Blocks	Lots of books/ Shelves/ Organized	Makerspace	Math club	Meeting rooms	Minecraft club	Place to hang out Youth Group	Place to play	Plants/ Garden	Play club/ Games/ Video games	Play room/ Toys	Printers	Quiet study area/ Like the quiet	Reading club	Reading for fun	Research	Robotics club	Socialize/ Community builder	Sports club /Sports books	Story times	Stuffed animals to read to	Summer reading camp/ Program	Tables for DIY crafts/ Desks	Taking books to bring home	Water table	Work out room	Writing program/ Club	NOT INTERESTED	Employment opportunities	Volunteer opportunities	Not having to leave town/ Accessibility
90									1	1																1			1													1
91													1													1																
92									1	1			1													1																
93									1	1														1		1																
94	1								1	1			1													1																1
95									1				1													1									1							
96	1								1				1													1									1							
97							1	1	1			1			1		1				1				1			1		1			1		1			1				
98									1	1																																1
99									1																	1																
100									1		1															1																
101									1	1			1											1		1																1
102									1				1											1		1																
103									1																																	
104									1	1			1													1																1
105									1	1																1					1												

Friends Of Legal Library Society - Legal School Presentation Data Compilation Report

Category	Count
Not having to leave town/ Accessibility	19
Volunteer opportunities	2
Employment opportunities	10
NOT INTERESTED	4
Writing program/ Club	8
Work out room	1
Water table	1
Taking books to bring home	16
Tables for DIY crafts/ Desks	16
Summer reading camp/ Program	10
Stuffed animals to read to	2
Story times	5
Sports club/ Sports books	12
Socialize/ Community builder	24
Robotics club	12
Research	3
Reading for fun	33
Reading club	15
Quiet study area/ Like the quiet	20
Printers	1
Play room/ Toys	4
Play club/ Games/ Video games	13
Plants/ Garden	5
Place to play	22
Place to hang out/ Youth Group	15
Minecraft club	11
Meeting rooms	3
Math club	10
Makerspace	7
Lots of books/ Shelves/ Organized	27
Lego club/ Building club/ Blocks	21
Learning	8
I love Libraries	23
I love books/ Reading	32
Craft club/ Craft programs	13
Computers/ Coding club/ Wi-Fi	22
Comfortable area/ Couches/ Carpet	21
Chapter books	7
Can go with mom/ Family	1
Bright pictures/ Bright lights	3
Book fairs /Books for sale	20
Able to go on weekends/summer	9

* Totals for all 105 students surveyed at Legal School on March 21, 2018. Pre-K and Kindergarten were not included.

Other Notable Ideas/ Suggestions:

Paint Days 40

Get Authors to come read books 40

Pet Day 40

Fairy Garden Day 40

Teaching Club 41

Indoor Playground 41

Warm 64

Grades 1 & 2 (20 Responses)

List #	# of ✓	%	Response
1	15	75.0%	Place to play
2	13	65.0%	Book fairs /Books for sale
3	9	45.0%	Lego club/ Building club/ Blocks
4	8	40.0%	Comfortable area/ Couches/ Carpet
5	8	40.0%	Tables for DIY crafts/ Desks
6	7	35.0%	Chapter books
7	5	30.0%	Robotics club
8	5	25.0%	Play club/ Games/ Video games
9	5	25.0%	Reading club
10	5	25.0%	Summer reading camp/ Program
11	4	20.0%	Craft club/ Craft programs
12	2	10.0%	Computers/ Coding club/ Wi-fi
13	2	10.0%	Lots of books/ Shelves/ Organized
14	2	10.0%	Minecraft club
15	2	10.0%	Plants/ Garden
16	1	5.0%	Reading for fun
17	1	5.0%	Stuffed animals to read to
18	1	5.0%	Taking books to bring home

Grades 2 & 3 (23 Responses)

List #	# of ✓	%	Response
1	12	52.2%	Computers/ Coding club/ Wi-fi
2	11	47.8%	Comfortable area/ Couches/ Carpet
3	8	34.8%	Lots of books/ Shelves/ Organized
4	7	30.4%	Book fairs /Books for sale
5	7	30.4%	Lego club/ Building club/ Blocks
6	7	30.4%	Place to play
7	7	30.4%	Sports club /Sports books
8	6	26.1%	Makerspace
9	6	26.1%	Reading for fun
10	5	21.7%	Math club
11	5	21.7%	Reading club
12	5	21.7%	Tables for DIY crafts/ Desks
13	4	17.4%	Craft club/ Craft programs
14	4	17.4%	I love books/ Reading
15	4	17.4%	I love Libraries
16	4	17.4%	Minecraft club
17	4	17.4%	Play room/ Toys
18	4	17.4%	Story times
19	3	13.0%	Bright pictures/ Bright lights
20	3	13.0%	Learning
21	3	13.0%	Meeting rooms
22	3	13.0%	Plants/ Garden
23	3	13.0%	Socialize/ Community builder
24	2	8.7%	Taking books to bring home
25	2	8.7%	Play club/ Games/ Video games
26	2	8.7%	Quiet study area/ Like the quiet
27	2	8.7%	Research
28	2	8.7%	Writing program/ Club
29	1	4.3%	Able to go on weekends/summer
30	1	4.3%	Can go with mom/ Family
31	1	4.3%	Place to hang out/ Youth Group
32	1	4.3%	Printers
33	1	4.3%	Robotics club
34	1	4.3%	Stuffed animals to read to
35	1	4.3%	Summer reading camp/ Program
36	1	4.3%	Water table
37	1	4.3%	Work out room
38	1	4.3%	NOT INTERESTED

Grades 4 – 9 (62 responses)

List #	# of ✓	%	Response
1	28	45.2%	I love books/ Reading
2	26	41.9%	Reading for fun
3	21	33.9%	Socialize/ Community builder
4	19	30.6%	I love Libraries
5	19	30.6%	Not having to leave town/ Accessibility
6	18	29.0%	Quiet study area/ Like the quiet
7	17	27.4%	Lots of books/ Shelves/ Organized
8	14	22.6%	Place to hang out/ Youth Group
9	12	19.4%	Taking books to bring home
10	10	16.1%	Employment opportunities
11	8	12.9%	Able to go on weekends/summer
12	8	12.9%	Computers/ Coding club/ Wi-fi
13	6	9.7%	Play club/ Games/ Video games
14	6	9.7%	Writing program/ Club
15	5	8.1%	Craft club/ Craft programs
16	5	8.1%	Learning
17	5	8.1%	Lego club/ Building club/ Blocks
18	5	8.1%	Math club
19	5	8.1%	Minecraft club
20	5	8.1%	Reading club
21	5	8.1%	Robotics club
22	5	8.1%	Sports club /Sports books
23	4	6.5%	Summer reading camp/ Program
24	3	4.8%	Tables for DIY crafts/ Desks
25	3	4.8%	NOT INTERESTED
26	2	3.2%	Comfortable area/ Couches/ Carpet
27	2	3.2%	Volunteer opportunities
28	1	1.6%	Makerspace
29	1	1.6%	Research
30	1	1.6%	Story times

Legal School (105 responses)

List #	# of ✓	%	Response
1	33	31.4%	Reading for fun
2	32	30.5%	I love books/ Reading
3	27	25.7%	Lots of books/ Shelves/ Organized
4	24	22.9%	Socialize/ Community builder
5	23	21.9%	I love Libraries
6	22	21.0%	Computers/ Coding club/ Wi-fi
7	22	21.0%	Place to play
8	21	20.0%	Comfortable area/ Couches/ Carpet
9	21	20.0%	Lego club/ Building club/ Blocks
10	20	19.0%	Book fairs /Books for sale
11	20	19.0%	Quiet study area/ Like the quiet
12	19	18.0%	Not having to leave town/ Accessibility
13	16	15.2%	Tables for DIY crafts/ Desks
14	16	15.2%	Taking books to bring home
15	15	14.3%	Place to hang out/ Youth Group
16	15	14.3%	Reading club
17	13	12.4%	Craft club/ Craft programs
18	13	12.4%	Play club/ Games/ Video games
19	12	12.4%	Robotics club
20	12	12.4%	Sports club /Sports books
21	11	10.5%	Minecraft club
22	10	9.5%	Math club
23	10	9.5%	Summer reading camp/ Program
24	10	9.5%	Employment opportunities
25	9	8.6%	Able to go on weekends/summer
26	8	7.6%	Learning
27	8	7.6%	Writing program/ Club
28	7	6.6%	Chapter books
29	7	6.6%	Makerspace
30	5	4.8%	Plants/ Garden
31	5	4.8%	Story times
32	4	3.8%	Play room/ Toys
33	4	3.8%	NOT INTERESTED
34	3	2.9%	Bright pictures/ Bright lights
35	3	2.9%	Meeting rooms
36	3	2.9%	Research
37	2	1.9%	Stuffed animals to read to
38	2	1.9%	Volunteer opportunities
39	1	1.0%	Can go with mom/ Family
40	1	1.0%	Printers
41	1	1.0%	Water table
42	1	1.0%	Work out room

The grades 1 to 9 students of Legal School were given a presentation on the project being worked on by the Friends Of Legal Library Society and participated in a brief discussion on the types of services and programs that libraries can provide. The response was overwhelmingly positive and there was a conversation with each group about the types of things the students would like a library in Legal to include. The students were asked to write or draw what they love about libraries, and the resulting comments have been gathered here for review. Please note that comments that were solely in list form have been omitted from this report – see the full Data Compilation Report for more detailed results. Comments have been edited for spelling errors only.

Grade 1 & 2 class

"It means reading to me and a craft club and building area." (#11)

Grade 2 & 3 class

"People can research and practice reading, reading clubs, math clubs and just have fun reading." (#22)

"I want a library that has sports in it." (#23)

"I like it because it is quiet. I like buying books. I like libraries so much. I like it because the books are organized." (#25)

"A place that people can read. What I would like to see Stephen King books and a computer for Fort Nite [a game]." (#26)

"Reading. I love quiet and researching. I think a library is a wonderful place to learn." (#30)

"I don't want a library." (#31) (No reason given.)

"They might have sports books and hockey books and a lot of McDavid books to make me go to the NHL." (#35)

"It means you get to take books out. I love libraries because I love books." (#36)

"I love about libraries is books to read." (#39)

[What a library means to me:] **"is I get to take out books and I can go there on weekends with my mom.** Ipads, baby play center, paint days, makerspace, meeting room, book fairs, summerclub, get authors to come read their books, pet day. Why I would like a baby play center is because **my babysitter could take us there** and the babies could play. Sports center, garden to read [in], fairy garden day, plant day." (#40)

"A library means that you get to read books and read more!" (#41)

Grades 4 to 9

"It doesn't really matter to me because I live outside of Legal and I would basically never go to the library and I don't read anyways." (#44)

"Great place to hang out and get a job." (#45)

"It is a nice and quiet place and place you can go volunteer and also work there, and a good place to hang out." (#46)

"During Spring or Summer break you can just walk to the library and not have to go to Morinville just to get a book, it would be a good place for people to study for exams and to socialize with other people." (#47)

"It means that **you can pick out books whenever you want** and you can read any books." (#48)

"I don't really think a library is necessary. It feels like a waste of money." (#49)

"It would be nice because I like to read and it could be good for studying because it's quiet." (#78)

"I think that a library is a place you can go to study, learn, read, and write." (#79)

"It means that we don't have to go all the way to Morinville to get books." (#80)

"I like to pick out a book and sit down to relax and read a nice book." (#81)

"A library is important to me because I like reading and I enjoy the books." (#82)

"Free wi-fi and books and stuff to do." (#83)

"It would be a place to study for tests and read, or have some time alone. You could also have a really good learning environment." (#84)

"I think a library will be great in Legal because we will grow the town." (#85)

"I would like a library because it would be a quiet place to go do homework with my friends and get to take out books." (#86)

"We won't have to drive to St. Albert to go to the library. It's fun to read." (#87)

"Well, I think it would be good for Legal because I love to read and lots of people would like to go there. So I think it's a really good idea!" (#88)

"Having a library in Legal would be super good. Kids can take out books, go in programs and have lots of fun activities. I would be going there lots." (#89)

"I would love to have a library in Legal it will help people communicate better. I love to read!" (#90)

"It means a lot to me because I love reading books." (#92)

"I like libraries because they are always quiet. And I love reading too because it makes me calm." (#93)

"I love to read, my friends call me a book worm so I totally agree with the idea of putting a library in Legal." (#94)

"I love reading and picking out interesting books like comic books." (#95)

"A place to read and find a good book." (#95)

"You get to take out books and we get program things." (#96)

"I would love a library." (#98)

"I love reading, it makes me happy." (#99)

"They are nice and quiet and awesome. You can read." (#100)

"I love the books because you can get smart and if you're bored you can read." (#101)

"I would like a library so I can go read in silence." (#102)

"It means a lot to me. I would like to see it organized." (#103)

"I agree to putting a library because I like to read and I could start reading more!" (#104)

"I would like a public library because I love reading and stories." (#105)

What does a library in Legal mean to you?

The students responded:

"It would be cool and good for the town." (#67)

"I think it would be a nice thing to have because it would bring people of Legal together and I'm sure there would be a lot of fun programs to participate in." (#68)

"Since a library is quiet, you can go there to study for a test or you could go there to do homework, also whenever you want a book you can go to a public library that's close to where you live. I think it would be great if you guys opened a public library, I think everyone would love it." (#74)

"It is warm and a nice place to hang out with your friends." (#64)

"My babysitter could take us there." (#40)

"I think a library is a wonderful place to learn." (#30)

"It means that we don't have to go all the way to Morinville to get books." (#80)

"Free Wi-Fi and stuff to do." (#83)

I think a library will be great in Legal because we will grow the town." (#85)

"Well, I think it would be good for Legal because I love to read and lots of people would like to go there. So I think it's a really good idea!" (#88)

"It means a lot to me because I love reading books." (#92)

"Having a library in Legal would be super good. Kids can take out books, go in programs and have lots of fun activities. I would be going there lots." (#89)

"I would like a public library because I love reading and stories." (#105)

"We won't have to drive to St. Albert to go to the library. It's fun to read." (#87)

"I would love a library." (#98)

One third
of Legal School students mentioned reading for fun and their love of books.

2 dozen
pupils think a library is a great place to socialize and would be a
community builder

1 in 5
think a comfortable seating area will be an asset and would like to see a Lego/ blocks club.

nineteen
would appreciate a quiet place to go to to read and to study or finish homework.

1/4
envision a library with lots of books and shelves.

22 percent
said "I love libraries!"

twenty one%
want: computers
coding club
free Wi-Fi
as well as a place to play

Book fairs & books for sale
are desired by 19% of the students hoping to build their reading material collections at home.

18% love the idea of a **local library** because it means it would be **accessible to all** residents. Students overwhelmingly agreed that **staying in town** for programs and services is a **major benefit** to this project.

Appendix E

Axia Fibre Optic Cable in Legal

This map shows where the runs of fibre optic cable currently are within Legal. Buildings outlined in red currently have fibre optic run right to them. The small yellow squares indicate points fibre can be tied on to service new locations.

Appendix F - In the News

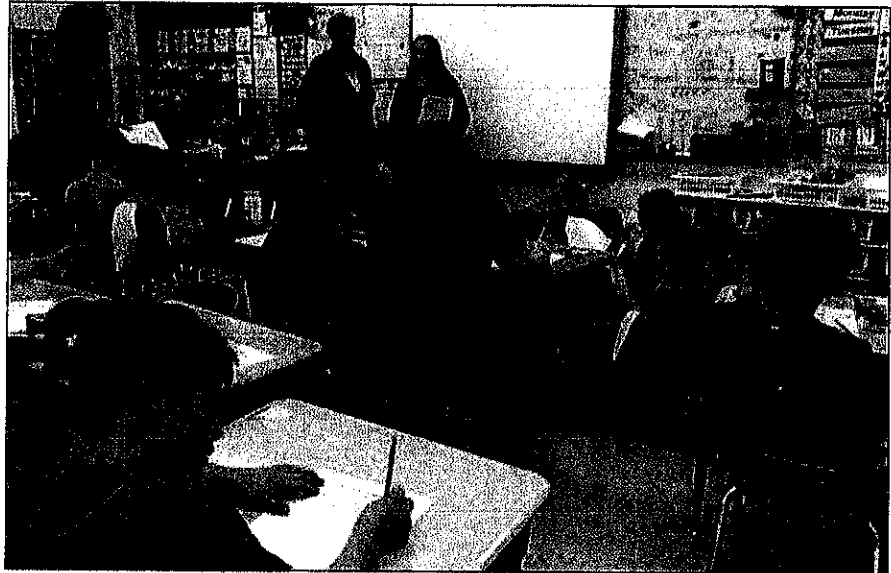# Group advocates for public library in Legal

by Amy Hibbard-Hiscock

The Town of Legal, situated in rural Sturgeon County, a mere 50 kilometres north of Edmonton is a community rich in history with French roots and an official bilingual status and is proclaimed as "The National Capital of French Murals". But one thing the town has never had is a pubic library. The last known attempt to create one was in July of 1983.

Legal is regarded as one of the "towns on the move" in terms of its increased focus on the map of Alberta. 2018 is set to be focused on rebranding, economic development and growth. The newly formed Friends of Legal Library Society (FOLLS) is a group of individuals that have come together following the Legal Chamber of Commerce 'What's the Big Idea?' event in early 2017 that resulted in the idea of a library being a great amenity for the town. The members are binding together to get resident interest and support in hopes of successfully showing the Town Council the many benefits of having a community library resource, and how it ties into the town's focus of moving forward this year.

FOLLS members Yvonne Friesen (Vice President) and Blaine McCrea (Treasurer) paid a visit to Legal School on March 21st to talk to the students about the benefits of local libraries, the type of programs they can provide and what a library means to the children. The group thought this was an interactive way to get the children and youth of the town to discuss ideas and have their opinions heard. FOLLS President, Jenny Baril says, "in the past, Town Council was not in favour of a library project but their focus was primarily on books. A library is a resource that is much greater than just books — it is a community anchoring amenity that draws residents in, offers a variety of programs, a facility that's not sports centered, a safe place for kids to go to after school, and a place for technology resources for those that may not have them at home."

A public library stems from a diverse funding pool. To gain support from Council to utilize tax dollars for the project, Council will need to see the support for the project from its residents. The FOLLS were invited to present at a town council meeting a couple of months ago. They had results from an initial online survey in which 100+ residents responded and over 60 of those took the time to add comments explaining why it would be beneficial. They were again invited to attend council meeting on March 26th where representatives of Northern Lights Library System (NLLS) presented information to council on what services they offer to 54 municipalities and the benefits of having the system to deliver comprehensive and efficient library services across Alberta. NLLS offers access to a combined inventory of materials and services to enable libraries to accomplish more than they could on their own. Baril says, "following this meeting, it is important that residents who support the idea of a library be heard. I strongly encourage them to contact council members, spread the word to friends, and contact FOLLS with any questions they may have." The Society was developed to have access to more grants to support the

project in addition to government funding from the province, Town of Legal and Sturgeon County.

The next step is for FOLLS to compile numbers and letters from supports and other information on libraries. Municipal Affairs states that it is crucial to have the support of Town Council to move forward. Without it, Baril says, "it's not impossible, however, it

would be much more difficult." With support, a bylaw would be passed to enable a library board to be created and then applications for funding can get underway. The province provides start up costs and the first step would be to gain access to a building.
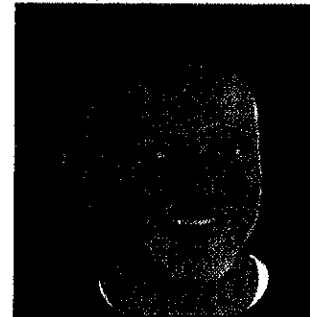
Baril says that there are currently three prime buildings on Main Street that would be suitable. Residents who would like to see

this project proceed are encouraged to step up and have their voices heard, and follow the progress on the Friends of Legal Library facebook page. FOLLS meets on the 4th Thursday each month at 7pm at the Citadel Centre. The next meeting is on April 26th and everyone is encouraged to attend for the latest developments on this project.

On March 21st, (L-R) Legal School Teacher Kathy Kieser and her students, discussed with Yvonne Friesen and Blaine McCrea (Vice President and Treasurer of the FOLLS, respectively) the ongoing project to build support and create a library for the Town of Legal. The students were invited to provide insight as to what a library means to them, what it looks like and what it has to offer. The FOLLS figured interactive school presentations was a fantastic way to involve the entire community.

Published Online Daily

MORINVILLE NEWS
www.MorinvilleNews.com
780-800-3619

FRONT PAGE   HOME LOCAL   NEWS REGION   NATIONAL PAGE   PROVINCE   EDITOR & OP   SPORTS OP

NEWS COUNT 2   [Apr 25, 2018] Governments drop $15 million for job training ▸ PROVINCE   SEARCH ...

HOME > EDITORIAL & OPINION > Letter: Legal looking to create a library

Letter: Legal looking to create a library

⊙ Mar 25, 2018 ▲ admin ▱ Editorial & Opinion, Legal, Letters ⏨ 1

Maker:S,Date:2017-8-8,Ver:6,Lens:Kan03,Act:Lar02,E-Y

I am submitting this photo of the presenters from the newly created Friends Of Legal Library Society (FOLLS) at Legal School discussing the benefits of local libraries, what kinds of programs a library can provide, and what a library means to the kids. On Wednesday morning, March 21, 2018 (L-R) Teacher Kathy Kieser discussed with Yvonne Friesen and Blaine McCrea (Vice President and Treasurer of the FOLLS, respectively) the ongoing project to build support and create a library for the town of Legal.

The town of Legal has never had a public library, and the last known attempt to create one was in July 1983, before the availability of social media and internet campaigns that are helping to spread the word today.

Residents of Legal have been showing an outpouring of positive support for the project in their answers to the survey used to gauge interest. The FOLLS group decided presentations at the schools and getting the children and youth of our town to discuss ideas and have their opinion heard and represented was a fantastic way to involve the entire community.

The idea for a library in Legal came about from a project in early 2017 by the Legal Chamber of Commerce called "What's The Big Idea?" The initiative was to source ideas from residents on how to improve our town and find out what residents were interested in seeing in the community.

We as a group appreciate any support and exposure you are able to provide. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions or need more information.

Thank you,

Blaine McCrea
Treasurer
Friends Of Legal Library Society

friendsoflegallibrary@gmail.com
Facebook Page: Friends Of Legal Library
Survey Link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y5X6V9D

Share this:

⊙   [

Related

Letter: Small Town Saturday   Open Letter Regarding the   Morinville Library prepares for
Night raises big bucks   Morinville Library   another busy year in 2017
May 10, 2012   Jan 4, 2016   Jan 3, 2017

In "Editorial & Opinion"   In "Editorial & Opinion"   In "Business"

Comments

1 comments

1 Comment   Sort by   Newest

Add a comment...

Ruthann Hasson-Weeks
When we moved to Legal in the early 2000's there was a group attempting to get a library started here. I hope it sticks this time. Such a great asset to any community.
Like · Reply · 4w

Facebook Comments Plugin

About admin › 7626 Articles

The Morinville News is an online daily news publication serving Morinville and surrounding area via MorinvilleNews.com, our daily email news service and our MorinvilleNews.com app for iOS and Android. You can also follow us online on Twitter @MorinvilleNews and on Facebook at Facebook.com/MorinvilleNews
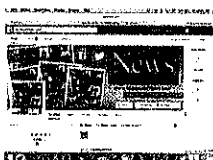
« PREVIOUS
Morinville CAO Andy Isbister retiring

NEXT »
The week in photos

RELATED ARTICLES

Town and County want you to get off the Internet

Letter: Legal has another big event coming

Morinville sights and bites

Blaine McCrea says:
MAR 25, 2018 AT 8:52 PM

Thank you so much for sharing this!

↩ REPLY

Leave a Reply

Your email address will not be published.
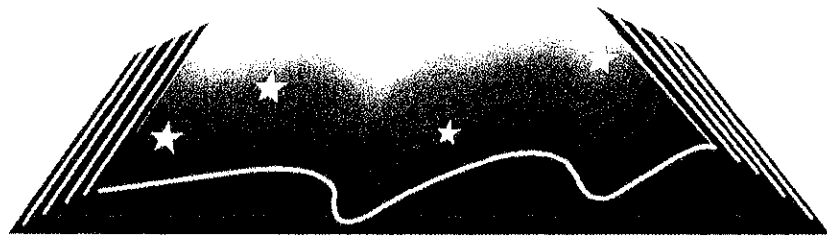
Comment

Name *

Email *

Website

Notify me of follow-up comments by email.

Notify me of new posts by email.

Appendix G -   Northern Lights Library System Services

Northern Lights Library System

Services

Cataloguing

- Donated items are catalogued for free.
- Hot list and series and seasonal items take precedence over other items to be catalogued.
- Discounted purchases through Acquisitions.

Processing

- All hard cover sleeves are laminated
- Books over $12.00 have mactack protective covering applied
- AV materials are repackaged at the request of the libray
- Items are shelf ready once received

LMAC

- Three meetings held per year
- Training session/workshop provided at each meeting upon request of the Chair
- Meals are included. Mileage is paid by the system.

Summer Reading Program

- System coordinates and pays for summer reading entertainer for each library.
- Each library can take advantage of a $75.00 subsidy for SRP materials. NLLS coordinates SRP materials orders and supplementary materials.
- NLLS hosts a Summer Reading Program workshop (usually in May) for programmers. A manual is distributed at that meeting.
- Promotional items received from vendors are distributed through van run.

NLLS Annual Conference

- Held in September.
- Choice of multiple sessions with a variety of streams (Staff, Board Members, Councillors etc.)

Office Supplies and Computer Purchases (Bulk Buying)

- Bulk purchasing available through BroDart, Gaylord, Grand and Toy, and Staples. The savings is passed on to the libraries.
- Not for profit/education discounts on computers and hardware.

Marketing

- NLLS creates templates for library marketing, If printed at NLLS, it is done at cost.
- Post online daily (facebook and Twitter)
- Provides online access to brochures on databases, etc.
- Consulting services available on marketing plans.

Access to 3.6 million items through TRAC.

Access to provincial wide borrowing through ME libraries.
5 Professional Librarians at HQ, additional staff with expertise in finance, acquisitions, shipping and receiving and organization.

Book Allotment

- $2.15 per capita
- 100% of the book allotment can be used for outside purchases or purchase through our own acquisitions for discounted purchases.

Headquarters Collection

- Programming Kits,
- Maker space Kits
- DVD/Blu-ray
- Large Print Collection
- Specialized Collection
- Music
- Audiobooks
- 3D printer
- 3 Mascot Bears (2 Black, 1 Polar)
- Virtual Reality Equipment
- 3 Computer laptop labs

Databases (36 total)

- Purchase e-resources on behalf of libraries. EBooks and Magazines
- Overdrive, Cloud library
- E-Resources fields to include: Business, Health and Wellness, Do it Yourself, Genealogy, Language, Science, Literature, Teachers and Educator, Ebooks, Newspapers, Video and Magazines.

ILL Shipping costs

- NLLS provides shipping cases for DVDs, blue bags, tubs for delivery.
- Library shipping tool through NLLS
- Libraries send their items via NLLS van run where in turn the items as shipped by system van run. (two runs a week for high traffic libraries)
- Library cards, patron barcodes and date stickers are provided free.

Consulting Services

- All site visits are at no additional cost, Bib Services, IT and Public Services
- Reference services and AAQ (listing topics like annual reports, collection development, Polaris, program assistance, etc.)

Training

- Library Manager Orientation – NLLS pays mileage and provides lunch
- Polaris Training
- Needs Assessment and Plan of Service workshops
- Board development workshops
- Web Ex training – various topics on a needed basis
- Mobile training lab available to loan out to member libraries

IT Services

- Internet costs
- NLLS covers costs for web site hosting which includes email accounts. Provision of a shared internet feed with member libraries.
- Office 365 and Deep Freeze provided.
- Replacement program for CEDs and Fortigates
- Unlimited in-house troubleshooting
- Computer repair – if a loaner is available, it is sent out until the item is repaired
- Help Desk for technology related support and assistance with technology repairs
- Network support/maintenance