



Building Blocks for Planning Functional Library Space

By American Library Association

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As in the second edition of *Building Blocks for Planning Functional Library Space*, this volume outlines the measures of space needed for the use of equipment and furniture within a library setting. It provides drawings of typical library furniture and equipment along with diagrams of the space required for their use. In addition, this volume also contains a brief text that provides an overview of the planning process, as well as details on several aspects of design and planning. With this expanded and revised edition, planners of new, renovated, or existing space will be better able to effectively utilize the space they have and to resist the temptation to overload a given space with too many functions. This third edition significantly expands the number of illustrations found in the previous edition, adding information on newer library technology and amenities. Photographs of furniture and equipment in library settings further enhance the user's understanding of applicable square footage needs. Designed to be consulted after the decision to build has been made, this volume answers the critical question, "How much space do we need."

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

This third edition updates a practical handbook for planning new, renovated, or existing library areas. Brief introductory text outlines the planning process, goals, program, and data sheets. The numerous photos, drawings, and other illustrations, which are the strength of this title, provide a hands-on way for nonarchitects to visualize space and to share their needs with professional designers. Specific dimensions and suggestions are given for collection, reading and study and public areas, and equipment and offices. Scale drawings suitable for copying allow a user to try out floor plans with shelving, computer tables, and more. Readers with projects to complete will also want William Sannwald's Checklist of Library Building Design Considerations (2009) and Jeannette Woodward's Countdown to a New Library (2010), but this title can't be beat for experimenting on paper. --Susan Gooden

Review

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The title of this book gives the reader a clue as to how to use it. The introduction explains that the book will be useful to people with any involvement in library space planning. The diagrams and drawings and measurements can be helpful for new or existing spaces. The book seems to flow in modules or blocks of information. The authors explain the planning process asking to identify goals and options. Advice is given if working with a planner. Planning documents are explained. The names of the documents and where in the process they will be helpful and needed are provided as well. There are helpful explanations on how to use the diagrams to plan library space. The majority of the pages in this book are devoted to illustrations. There are plans with measurements and a three-dimensional view with notes as needed, and sometimes a photograph of an existing space for an example. The emphasis is on the usability and function of spaces in libraries. Technology is changing how space is used in libraries. Reminding the reader to discuss the placement of electrical outlets for patrons with laptops in a wireless environment and the issue of flat screens and furniture choices are important details that are sometimes overlooked in the larger picture. A helpful annotated bibliography of materials on the topic of library space planning and design is included. The book might be improved if it were spiral bound with pockets for notes, used as a working guidebook throughout a project. *Building Blocks for Planning Functional Library Space* would be a helpful tool aiding librarians and staff to make smart choices and wise decisions when planning a modern library. (*American Reference Books Annual*)

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