# Introduction

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IT'S ALMOST TWENTY YEARS since *Library Trends* last devoted an issue to
buildings ("University Library Buildings," edited by David C. Weber,
October 1969). Since then, library facilities planners have responded to
their share of trends and new developments in library service and
construction techniques. But at the same time, many fundamental
planning practices have been reaffirmed again and again. The literature
on space planning reflects this. For the smaller public library, Rolf
Myller's *The Design of the Small Public Library* (Bowker, 1966) is still a
useful introduction to key concepts. Keyes Metcalf's landmark *Plan-
ning Academic and Research Library Buildings* (McGraw, 1965) served
the same function for academic libraries, even though it has recently
been updated and revised by David Weber and Philip Leighton. One of
the authors in this issue notes that "most of our best current thinking in
that area [library architecture] is a result of those expansion years
[1960-1972]."

So why a buildings issue of *Library Trends?* From my perspective,
the passage of twenty years is reason enough. It was simply time to take a
look around the field. It would be useful to report on the ways that space
planning has been affected by new technologies and to explore other
areas where our current thinking seems to be in transition.

Obviously, the introduction of computer technology has changed
the way we deliver library services and the facilities we create to house
those services. Automated equipment imposes specific electrical and

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environmental demands on our library buildings. Lighting the auto-
mated work space to avoid glare poses a new sort of challenge. Power
distribution becomes a concern. Static control, temperature controls,
the list goes on and on.

Fiscal concerns have prompted increased interest in energy effi-
ciency (which has its own effect on environmental planning for library
materials and automation). Tight money has also led to a decrease in the
number of new building projects nationwide for libraries of all types. A
larger and larger proportion of expansion projects take the form of an
addition to an existing building or converting and remodeling existing
space for library purposes.

This issue is divided into two parts. Four introductory articles focus
on trends in library facilities planning by type of library. Readers will
note some trends that are common among all types of libraries, while
each author makes some observations that are peculiar to a given type of
library. These introductory articles are followed by a series of articles on
specific topics: library lighting, mechanical systems, ergonomics, fund-
ing trends, and so on.

Ray Holt begins by summarizing trends in public library buildings
based on his observations as a library building consultant. He com-
ments on cycles in building activity (most recently spurred by the
availability of Library Services and Construction Act Title II funding),
trends that seem to draw into question the conventional wisdom regard-
ing public library site selection, and, perhaps most important, an
apparent trend to build somewhat larger buildings today than was the
case twenty years ago. He also reviews the impact of changes in lighting,
power, automation, fire protection, security systems, and more.

Nancy McAdams describes seven broad trends in planning aca-
demic library buildings: greater differentiation between storage and
user space (accepting less overall flexibility in favor of greater environ-
mental control), retention of existing facilities (more building conver-
sions), incremental growth (more additions), tighter programming
(caused by funding agencies' challenges of accepted library planning
premises), increased protection of life and property, dispersal of formats
and equipment (greater integration of microformats, for example), and
accommodation of nonlibrary functions in the library building.

Elaine Cohen examines special library facilities, noting the impact
of corporate or organizational structure on how a special library is
organized. She notes that many special libraries are comparatively new
and subject to rapid change caused by growth of this new department or
shifts in the organization's research goals. Speed of response and the

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ability to adapt quickly to the changing information needs of the organization are keys to successful special library facilities planning.

Trends in school library media centers are described by Jim Bennett. In media centers, perhaps more than in other types of libraries, planners often face problems associated with expanding to occupy space within the existing building. Bennett reviews the impact of behavioral use of space on media center planning and a trend toward consolidating certain services. The impact of educational use of technologies (the school library as a center for broad-based media services, the growing application of satellite reception and broadcast capabilities) is also reviewed.

Following these introductory articles, Brad Waters and Willis C. Winters offer the first of the articles on specific topics, focusing on trends in library lighting. After a brief discussion of the physics of light, the qualities that affect light and how people respond to light, Waters and Willis describe trends in the application of light (daylighting *v.* artificial light; incandescent *v.* fluorescent *v.* HID lamps, and so on) and provide some case studies of successfully-lit library buildings.

Fred Dubin discusses mechanical systems and libraries. Automated services and energy efficiency in particular have prompted changes in the way a building's mechanical systems (e.g., the heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems, and the electrical systems) are designed. In turn, these changes must be examined from the standpoint of their effect on how people respond to space. This article is adapted from a paper delivered at the 1986 preconference, "The Humane Electronic Workspace," sponsored by the Building and Equipment Section of the ALA Library Administration and Management Association (and their cooperation in the production of this article is greatly appreciated).

Lamar Veatch summarizes key issues in environmental design as they apply to libraries. People tend to approach the use of public and work spaces in certain ways, and an understanding of this behavioral use of space can enhance a planner's ability to design an effective, useful library.

Next, John Vasi looks at trends in staff furnishings in libraries. One byproduct of automation is an increasing proportion of "shared" work stations and an increasing concern for the physical requirements of individual users. Many manufacturers tout furnishings and equipment that can be readily adapted to meet the needs of different individuals, and Vasi identifies some of the features to look for.

Since *Output Measures* was published in 1982, the Public Library Association has promoted their use as one means of gauging a library's

performance. Nolan Lushington draws some initial connections between library performance measures and library space planning and offers some suggestions regarding the use of performance measures as they affect building use.

Several articles in this issue suggest that proportionately fewer new library buildings are undertaken. The next two articles explore the options when a new building is not a realistic possibility. B. Franklin Hemphill discusses alternatives to new construction, what he calls the "3 R's": rearrangement, retrofit, and rehabilitation. Marlys Cresap Davis concentrates on one of those alternatives, rearrangement of existing space, and provides two brief case studies of small public libraries reassigning existing space to better use.

Richard B. Hall studies trends in financing public library buildings, reviewing the balance of federal, state, local, and private funding sources since the Carnegie era. While local public monies have traditionally been a library's primary source of capital funding, and all indications are this trend will continue, the balance of other sources of funding (between federal and state and private) appears to shift from time to time, and the availability of funding from those other sources often spurs the availability of local funding.

Richard Waters examines the library building of tomorrow, speculating about the impact of trends like an aging population, privatization, and the "paperless society" will have on the library facilities that will be built in the future. His assessment is more positive than some might expect.

The issue concludes with a bibliography by Walter C. Allen, adapted from the syllabus used for the "Library Buildings" class at the University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science.

In this issue we have hoped to address only some of the trends facing library facilities planners today. There isn't room in a single issue of *Library Trends* to explore all of the ramifications of changing use patterns, new technologies, and all of the other factors that affect the type of library building that is required to respond to a community's needs today and in the future.

Partly this is so because each community—whether a city, or a university, or a corporation, or a school—is itself unique, and the library serving that community must be designed in response to that uniqueness. Even the stock answers to library space planning concerns should be reexamined in the context of a given situation. Planning a library building is something that's done from the ground up, and the process is a little different evey time it's undertaken.

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So in this issue we have tried to identify some current concerns and some helpful sources that may direct local planners to a solution to the challenge at hand. Each reader must determine whether or not our goal was met.

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