

November 2008



Boise Main Library Vision Building Program Summary

Making a Good Library Great!

A building, in its simplest form, is a series of spaces, some defined by enclosure, and some defined only by use. The success of the whole is dependent upon a gathering of these spaces, maintaining their principles, relationships, and most importantly, their aesthetic concerns. These are principles that give the building individualism and special meaning. The new Boise Main Library has the potential to be the most significant civic structure in the city. As such, the building needs to seamlessly project the City's civic, cultural, and educational image and aspirations while providing the standard and emerging library functions and features.

Library |

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Typical Services and Features



- A young professional at a public PC station working on the text for a sales report and conducting research with authoritative electronic sources.
- Two senior citizens reviewing retirement investments at a public PC station, wired for world language tapes with printed materials to learn conversational German for an upcoming tour.
- A family viewing a traveling exhibit on Abraham Lincoln to celebrate the 200th anniversary of his birth.
- People shopping for book bargains at the Friends of the Boise Public Library bookstore.
- A class from fourth grade receiving their first exposure to the building in the first floor orientation room.
- Children from Boise interacting with children from England via video conferencing/web conferencing in the large program room in Youth Services.
- A high school debate team preparing for the state tournament in one of the group study rooms.
- A standing room only audience listening to the debut of a new chamber music score in the auditorium.
- A group of young parents meeting with the district legislator in a conference room regarding school funding.
- A Learning Lab instructor preparing a lesson plan for the next week's class.
- A Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce meeting in the multipurpose room.

The Building Reflects a Commitment to Public Service

The building program for the Main Library incorporates the successful features and experience of numerous other library facilities as they apply to the needs of the community and its residents.

The building should embody a commitment to the public service through the provision of a well-designed library that does not sacrifice functionality or aesthetics. It should be cost-effective in terms of operation and layout. It must be responsive to changing service needs. It must be welcoming, warm, and easy to navigate.

The library will be an important informational, cultural, and educational resource for Boise, Ada County, indeed, for the entire state of Idaho. The design should reflect the dignity associated with these functions.

Smart Building is Required

The public library building of today and tomorrow must accommodate the traditional collections and functions long associated with library service while reflecting the technical flexibility and requirements of smart buildings. It must reflect dramatic changes in information technologies that have occurred during the past three decades, especially library information technologies and digitalization of text.

A number of emerging and standard technologies play a significant role in the planning and operation of the new facility in Boise. The Internet and web plays an increasingly important role in information access and service, digital downloads including video, audio, and embedded documents are standard fare when retrieving information and have become primary media for information from all sources. Wireless access throughout the building is now a standard feature for all public library buildings in the United States, and while technology has become increasingly sophisticated, so has society at-large, and the public library user in particular.



Programming Goal

The program must consider both short-term and long-term needs. Recognizing that the public library is dynamic in nature, affected by a wide variety of both internal and external actions, programming must consider the following:

- The size of the various collections of library materials.
- Seating for those persons using the collections.
- Circulation and usage patterns for each type of material in the library's collections.
- Staff service points and work areas.
- Systems automation and information technologies, and how they are integrated with services and building technology.
- Flexibility in moving and relocating technologies, seating, collections, and provide for emerging technologies and service demands. The modern, contemporary public library building of today is a true community center, regularly visited day in and day out by more people than any other place in the community. The new and enhanced services of a new Main Library will bring thousands of people to downtown Boise and the library week in and week out. Based upon the experience of other cities that have planned and constructed new main library buildings of the past several years, usage of the new Boise Main Library will more than double, perhaps even triple.





Key Assignable Spaces

Level One	Key Area	Square Footage
	Entrance lobby	2,915
<i>Potential lease space</i>	Library store/café	2,160
	Auditorium	5,710
	Conference room	715
	Borrower's services	2,585
	Orientation room	715
	Popular library	1,300
	Audio visual	3,280
	Youth services	15,130
	Loading	730
<i>Potential lease space</i>	Learning Lab school	970
<i>Potential lease space</i>	Copy/print center	5,260
TOTAL (includes unassignable and unlisted space)		68,800

Level Two	Space	Square Footage
	Adult services nonfiction	27,530
	Fiction and large print	5,090
	Study rooms	310
	Tutoring rooms	210
	Reading room	360
	Conference room	450
	Lease space	5,000
TOTAL (includes unassignable and unlisted space)		57,295

Level Three	Key Spaces	Square Footage
	Magazines and government documents	6,870
	Young adult services	2,355
	Electronic classroom	700
	Staff training room	450
	Closed stacks/storage	6,250
<i>Potential lease space</i>	Idaho Human Rights Education Center	1,290
<i>Potential lease space</i>	Lease space	9,750
TOTAL (includes unassignable and unlisted space)		45,825

Level Four	Key Space	Square Footage
	Multipurpose room	3,600
	Conference room	715
	Gallery	2,420
TOTAL (includes unassignable and unlisted space)		9,735
<i>Total Building Assigned/Unassigned</i>		<i>181,655</i>



Key Service Elements

- Children's library and story telling area
- Entrance lobby with electronic media displaying the news, information, and events
- Library store, run by the Friends of the Boise Public Library
- Coffee
- Internet Café
- Performing arts auditorium
- Community meeting spaces
- Media center for DVDs, BluRay, digital downloads, recorded books, and music
- Popular reading center on the first floor
- Electronic classroom
- Private tutoring rooms
- Local history center
- Gallery space for rotating exhibits
- Periodical reading room
- 200 public PCs with Internet access
- WiFi access throughout the building
- Materials for all ages
- Teen center, including high-tech interactive gaming facility

