



GROUP3PLANNERS LLC

3things@group3planners.com
www.group3planners.com

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3 more tidbits....

- G3P held a 2-day training class in January for library districts interested in acquiring and working with Libris DESIGN. If you are interested, e-mail Sharon Rowlen at srowlen@group3planners.com
- Looking for bean bags for the younger set? Look no further: <http://www.fatboyusa.com/>
- Do you have acoustical problems in your library? Libris DESIGN has this helpful white paper on their web site: <http://www.librisdesign.org/docs/AcousticsLibraries.pdf>

How to Subscribe

If a colleague forwarded this newsletter to you and you wish to receive future newsletters in your in-box, we invite you to visit www.group3planners.com to subscribe.

just 3 things...

1—Library Interiors Are an Open Book on Your Library Mission

What message about your library is communicated when patrons enter the library? Is the real mission of your library what patrons experience up front?

For example, is your library mission or role to provide the most current popular materials? How do new potential patrons know that when they first enter the library? Hopefully they will see new books, DVDs, and audio books highlighted with covers face out. Maybe a special display marketing materials about the current Spring “Get in Shape” theme or catchy signage leading to the latest bestsellers will greet them up front.

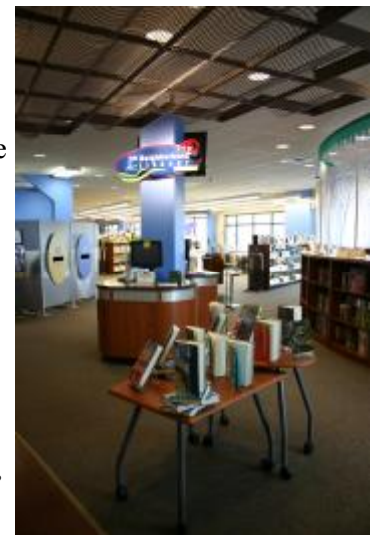
If your library serves as a community gathering place, patrons might see comfortable chairs arranged in



monolingual residents, these patrons see the signage on the door in their appropriate language or find a special area close to the front of the building with a variety of materials face out with titles in their own language.

Just as missions and roles of your library change over time, so should the library itself. And the library should speak a thousand words about what that mission and those roles are.

Perhaps it's time to walk through the front door of your library as though you had never before entered there, and see what the library is saying to you.



groups for conversation, or signs advertising the next film discussion program, or a place where they can get something to eat and drink while enjoying their stay at the library, or a community room with local art.

If the library caters to certain targeted groups such as



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8235 W. 71st Ave.
 Arvada, CO 80004

Phone: 303-456-4824

E-mail:

3things@group3planners.com

Up-coming Issue:

No more spreadsheets. Instead LD provides a tool to plan according to your anticipated shelved collection, re-calculating the space needs based on shelving type and capacity. Nice.....

Attend the April 19 Seminar and hear how one library district is using this tool to downsize shelving heights and gauge the effect on the collection size.

Get Your Libris DESIGN Software Here!!

If you are interested in obtaining Libris DESIGN software, please e-mail Sharon Rowlen at srowlen@group3planners.com. Limited individual training is included, or wait for a minimum class size of six for a full two-day training. The individual who receives the training also receives the software. **More details available at www.group3planners.com.**

The Libris DESIGN project is supported by the US Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

2—What's the Buzz at the New Lone Tree Library?

The remodeled Lone Tree Library opened to the public last October, to groups of people waiting outside the doors to see what had been done to their beloved library. In those first few days, this 10,000 square foot library circulated more than a library four times its size. What was all the excitement about?

The Lone Tree Library had been transformed into a “Neighborhood Library”, a concept developed earlier with the Roxborough Library and further refined to meet the changing needs of the Douglas County Libraries’ patrons.



Out with the old... The circulation desk, high shelving with mostly books, children’s area at the back, rows of stationary computers right at the front.

In with the new... Self-check using RFID, a concierge station, librarians mingling with patrons to help them find what they need, laptops on carts to be pulled

to any seating location in the library, expanded media, “Power Wall” focusing on new materials, displays throughout the space, Children’s area up towards the front, quiet area leading to a sheltered outdoor area in the back, lower shelving with more display options, color on the beams, carpet designs to add delight, open vistas to the windows, a view of the fireplace (which some patrons discovered for the first time, though it had always existed)...a palpable sense of excitement and exploration.

This Neighborhood Library is not a place for in-depth research or for “shushed-quiet” study. Instead it is a hub of information, activity and gathering. There are still great places to open a book and read quietly...with the activity “over there”. There are places to pull a computer cart over to a chair looking out over the wetlands and settle in to surf...completely cordless. There are many special places.

This different library has challenged its staff to migrate its always friendly helpfulness to active on-the-floor working with patrons. They have employed innovative ways to display books and media, and have been pleased to see multiple copies of popular items “flying” out the door.

A library cannot exist on “looks” alone (who of us can?), rather on the staff’s dedication to providing the very best to meet the needs of the community. Lone Tree is truly a Neighborhood Library.

- Sharon Rowlen





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3—Remodeling Pitfalls: 3 things to keep you from failing

Oh, wouldn't a new library be nice. Just built it on another site, buy all new shelving and furniture and move in. Yes, that would be nice—but sometimes we need to continue to use what we have. You know the reasons: history, location, budget, availability, etc. So, we are here, we have a building, we have shelving and furniture—and it is not working!!! *We remodel!!* Remodeling can be an aesthetic face lift or it can support a new service plan. Start here:

1. WHAT TO YOU NEED TO ACCOMPLISH?

Without a clear objective, no one can help you reach your goals. You should consider the following in developing your objective:

- Aesthetic remodel and/or functional remodel
- Budget and funding
- Schedule



2. WHO DO YOU NEED ON YOUR TEAM?

Depending on your objective, you will need to work with many professionals to develop the details. Consider:

- Key staff members
- Library planning consultants
- Interior designers/architects
- Fundraising professionals
- LEED consultants
- Community liaison



3. WHO WILL BE THE DECISION MAKERS?

Many projects fail because there is no clear path to a final decision, or once the final decision is made, no clear keeper of the path. To keep on track:

- Determine a project leader
- Develop clear record keeping
- Share tasks and accountability
- Set reasonable deadlines and maintain a current schedule
- Provide a formal and documented way to review questions and concerns
- And finally, when you need to make a change or adjustment—and you will—publish the change, the reason, and the positive effect it will have on the project



Remodeling a library has many positive aspects. It can offer the community a sense of continuity and place. Often an existing library is located at the center of the community and its physical presence supports its history. Some are truly architectural gem stones. Regardless of the reason that motivates you to remodel, having a clear objective, a competent team and strong leadership will move you through the process and allow you to reach your goals.

- Mary Gulash

Free Seminar—3 Really Important Things!

April 19, 2007 ~ 10:00 AM—2:00 PM

Sponsored by Group3 Planners—Hosted by Arapahoe Library District

12855 East Adam Aircraft Circle, Englewood

Lunch provided by Group3 Planners

RSVP Required

More details will arrive in your in-box in March