

GROUP 3 PLANNERS LLC

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March, 2011—#14

Published Periodically

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3 more tidbits....

- We have a brand new web site. Check it out! Look for the Libraries tab and click on pictures to see lots of new libraries via Flickr.
- We are active now in LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter in addition to Flickr. Lots of ways to be in touch with us!
- Yes, the tidbits are all about "us" this time! Follow out blog which is featured on the Home page of our new web site.

This is a FREE newsletter!  
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# just 3 things...

## 1— Anythink Washington Street Branch...the pride of the community!



First Impressions

For the past few years we have had the privilege to be working on new buildings, but in the last year we received the opportunity to work on a remodel. Anythink Libraries wanted to remodel their Washington Branch. In this case they were looking for a 3-5 year solution, knowing that there was the possibility of relocating this branch library in the near future. The budget was modest for construction. We were encouraged to reuse what we could and new items were purchased with the intent of moving with the library.



Children's Area



Mary Gulash, G3P Professional Member

These are some of the ways we were able to open up the floor plan, exposing the whole library to natural light and outside views.

- Split the functions of the one circulation desk into two smaller staff pods
- Relocated the community room to the first floor
- Relocated the staff area to the first floor
- Removed all interior walls in the library, exposing exterior windows
- Down-sized the collection to allow lower stack heights
- Used the elevator lobby for the self check units
- Purchased new multi-use furniture scaled to the size of a smaller library.

New carpet and paint added to the package. Anythink brought in their branding to make this library feel and function as their new libraries.



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## Talk to Us!

Please let us know of any topics you are especially interested in, or if you would like to contribute an article.

We hope that you will view this newsletter as another way to share information with the library community.

Your comments are always welcome and appreciated!

Look for G3P  
 at the  
 MPLA Conference  
 (Mountain Plains Library Association)

April 6-9, 2011  
 Billings Hotel &  
 Convention Center  
 Billings, MT

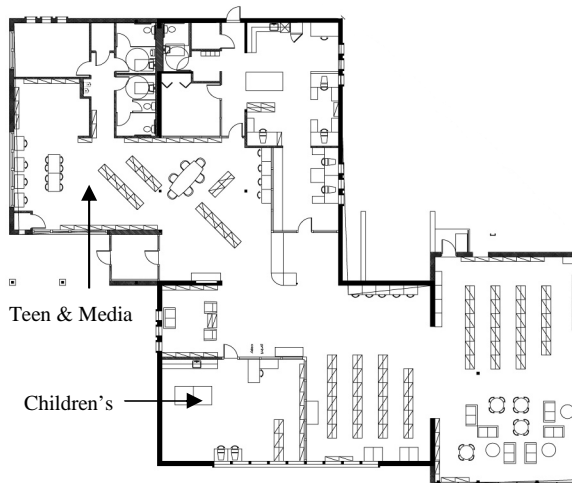
★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
 See You There!!

## 2—More, Not Less! . . . Maximize, Optimize, Re-allocate, Excellence!

You've probably already leaped ahead to guess what L-E-S-S stands for: Lower expectations, Expansion anxiety, Status quo, Sparse...or something like that. Our experience has been that an independent assessment of how you are using your library space may provide ideas of how to rearrange functions and refocus your library on current needs...without creating a huge, expensive project. The Ruby M. Sisson Library in Pagosa Springs is a great example of a solution that really gives them MORE.

The library staff identified three design concerns they wanted to address in their I-Cubed\* design charrette. One of them was to create a community meeting space with minimal construction.

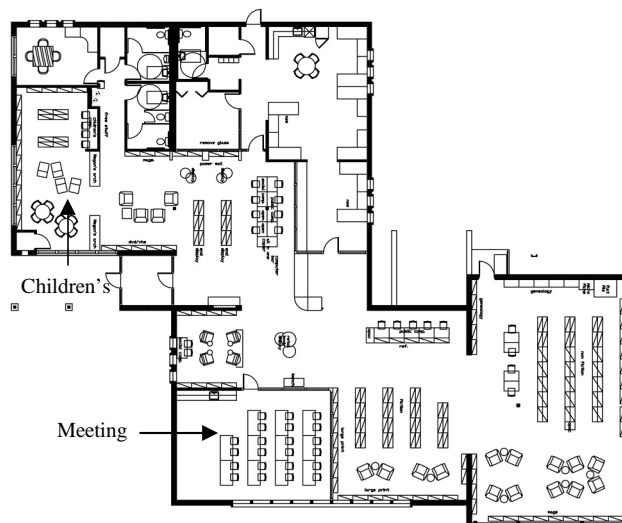
After a couple hours of brainstorming, blocking functions into new locations throughout the library, we focused on the possibility of moving space-rich Children's from its enclosed room and using that



vacated space as a small community meeting room, as well as the children's story time area. Children's would be relocated to another area in the library that would be much more flexible in accommodating size and program needs. Noisier functions were grouped together and successively quieter functions were located away from Children's. Best of all, only very minor construction and moderate relocation were needed to accomplish their goal.

Other design concerns were addresses with the resulting solution that will re-focus the library on technology needs along with a more inviting (even enticing!) introduction to the library beginning in the entry.

The library achieved its goal of doing MORE (adding the meeting room) and not having to give up anything that was important to their community.



\* I-Cubed is a quick solution 1-day design charrette. For more details, visit the web site.



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## Some of G3P's New Projects!

**Ruby M. Sisson Public Library**  
Pagosa Springs, CO

**Wheeler Library**  
Otero Junior College  
La Junta, CO

## Libraries by G3P Open or Opening Soon!

**Washington Street Branch**  
Anythink Libraries  
Thornton, CO—1/11

**Sterling Public Library**  
Sterling, CO—2/11

**Green Valley Ranch**  
Denver Public Libraries  
Denver, CO—3/11

**Commerce City Branch—3/11**  
**Perl Mack Branch—4/11**  
Anythink Libraries

## We're Sociable!

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...and we blog!

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## 3—Spring Cleaning...3 ways to spruce up your library

Money is tight everywhere--I really don't need to tell you that. Most likely there is little or no budget for new furniture, let alone for a remodel. But you still need and want a fresh look. Lets take some directive from all of those make over shows!!

### DE CLUTTER

Take pictures of the public areas of your library: entrance, circ desk, reading areas, teen area, children's library. Get your staff together for a slide show. It is amazing what you will see in a picture, that you never notice while working in the library. "See" the library as a new patron and look at how you can simplify the experience.

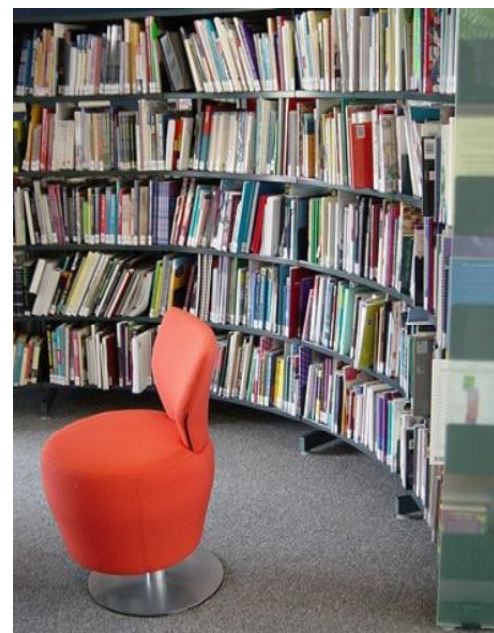


### FIND THE WINDOWS

In the spring we all gravitate to the bright sunshine. Often to fill other needs in the library, we start to create barriers to the natural light that the architect designed into the project. So--raise those shades, move those tall stacks, and create seating and study areas by the windows. Look across the library for ways that you can create site lines to the windows.

### SWAP

Make it new to you. Swap furniture from the front to the back of the library. If you have multiple branches, look at moving things from one library to another. It is "new" if it is in a new place!



by Mary Gulash, G3P Professional Member