Pittsylvania Public Library System

Library Expansion Study

Prepared for Pittsylvania County and the Pittsylvania Public Library System

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Prepared by:

ENTEROS DESIGN

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Acknowledgments

The Pittsylvania Public Library System and Enteros Design would like to recognize the following groups and individuals whose contributions to this process were invaluable.

Executive Summary

Pittsylvania County Libraries play a vital role in the lives of County residents as evident by the more than 35,000 registered card holders, 153,943 visitors annually, and almost 20,000 attendees to library programs. The libraries provide access to literature, education, training, culture, and technology to many residents who have limited resources otherwise. The five existing library branches are located mainly along the Route 29 north/south axis in the center of the County. Residents who live in the more remote eastern and western portions of the County do not have convenient access to these libraries. This study evaluates existing library facilities, evaluates opportunities to expand access to library services throughout the County, and the need for possible new library branches in the Dan River, Banister, and Staunton River Districts.

Although the Library System provides a tremendous resource to the County residents, the size of the existing facilities is substantially below recommended standards for the population of the County. The Library of Virginia's "Planning for Library Excellence: Standards for Virginia Public Libraries" recommends a minimum of .6 square feet of library space per resident at the lowest level of library services. The existing library facilities offer approximately .4 square feet per resident. The existing library spaces have tall shelving, narrow aisles, limited seating and lack of adequate staff space. The existing facilities should be expanded and/or new library facilities should be constructed.

During a three-day data gathering visit, interviews were conducted with staff, stake holders, and the public to gather valuable information on the need for library services in the County. Staff, stakeholders, and residents were outspoken about how the libraries enrich their lives. In all the meetings, the need for expanding library facilities and access to library services was compelling. Common interests in expanded services included larger meeting rooms, separate flexible use STEAM and Children's program rooms, study and tutoring rooms, improved seating, and outdoor spaces.

Evaluating the need for new library branches in the Dan River, Banister, and Staunton River Districts involved analyzing space needs described by staff, and input or demand for library services by the community. The population density, proximity to commercial and public buildings, and distance from existing county libraries make Dan River a good candidate for a new library branch. A detailed space allocation program shows that a branch library with 11,000 to 12,000 square feet would be needed to provide the services requested for the Dan River District. The size of a branch library for Banister may be the same size as recommended for Dan River; however, the population in Banister and lack of a concentration of commercial and public buildings may indicate that a smaller branch library would satisfy the need.

An express library with approximately 4,000 square feet would provide access to collections, a small meeting space, and public computers. Perhaps adding 4,000 square feet to the existing Chatham and/or the Gretna Branch libraries would help to serve the overall community in addition to a new 4,000 square foot branch in Banister. The Town of Hurt in the Staunton River District also has a higher population density and proximity to commercial and public buildings. The expressed need for library services in this community suggest that a library with approximately 11,000 square feet would be required. Several locations for libraries were discussed for each community. The prominent locations that seem to have adequate infrastructure are near the public schools in each district. More detailed information about these locations is noted in the report for each district.

In addition to evaluating existing facilities and studying expansion opportunities, the proposed plans for the renovation of the Gretna Branch were reviewed. The Gretna Branch will be expanded into an existing adjacent area formally occupied by a technical college. The expansion will nearly double the facility to include an expanded adult area, renovated children's area, large new meeting room, separate children's program room, renovated staff area, and new outdoor reading garden. This report contains more detailed recommendations for the renovation.

The budgets for the new library facilities will vary depending on final designs, size, and market conditions at the time of construction. A preliminary budget estimate is provided as part of this report. Based on average costs per square for new construction, an 11,000 to 12,000 square foot library may cost between $4.3 and $5.1 million. If a suitable existing building is available for reuse as a library, the building renovation budget may be between $2.6 an $4.1 million depending on the complexity of the project. A smaller, 4,000 square foot, express library may cost between $1.7 and $1.9 million. The budgets presented in this report are intended to assist with planning for strategies to move forward with expansion options. Additional design and budget planning will be required to accurately estimate final construction costs for the project.

Based on the information contained in this report, the library committee and the County should evaluate the best options for expanding access to library services. It is clear that expanded library facilities are needed, and each community has a high demand for additional access to library services. At least one new branch should be constructed, and additional new branches should be constructed and/or existing branches should be expanded as construction funding becomes available.

Existing Library Facilities

Size, Location, and Capabilities of the Current Branch Libraries

Existing Library Facilities

The Pittsylvania Library Systems consists of five branches distributed primarily along the Route 29 corridor running north south through the County. The Chatham branch is the largest branch and also houses library administration for the entire system. The Mt. Hermon Branch was recently built and serves as a precedent for future library improvements and renovations. The Gretna Library is scheduled for renovation and will double in size as it expands into the former footprint of a community college center with whom it shared the facility.

The library system occupies a total of 25,375 square feet, or .4 square feet per capita, which is significantly lower than the minimum .6 square feet per capita recommended by the Library of Virginia "Planning for Library Excellence: Standards for Virginia Public Libraries". The small size of the facilities limits the library system's ability to provide study and tutoring rooms, community gathering space, and a variety of programs promoting science and technology as well as arts and literature commonly found in modern libraries.

Existing Facility Sizes	
Chatham	7,600
Gretna	6,375 (after proposed renovation)
Mt. Hermon	5,000
Brosville/Cascade	3,300
History Research Center	3,100

= Approximate 10 Mile Service Reach
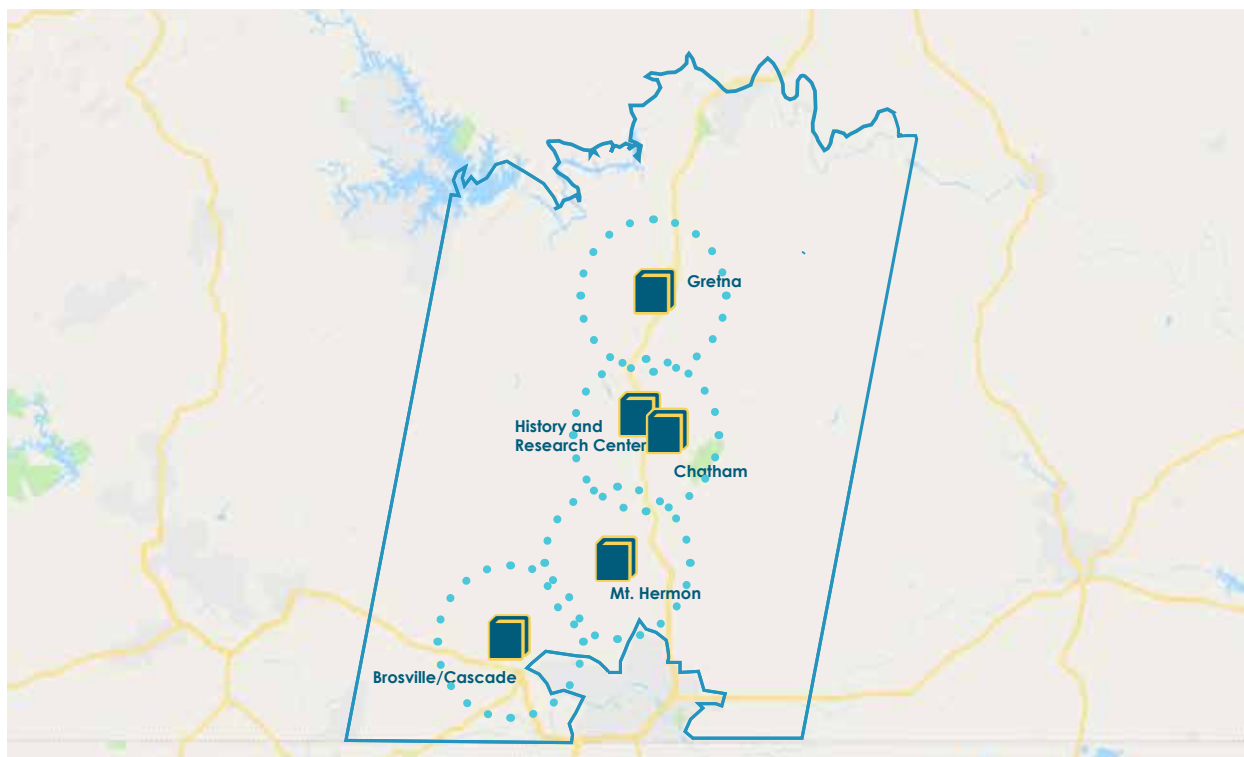
To expand the reach of library services to remote areas of the County, the system operates a book mobile which makes 50-60 stops around the County monthly. The bookmobile operates from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Tuesday through Thursday. The bookmobile stops for approximately 60 minutes at defined stops, which means that patrons must arrange their schedule around the book mobile visits. This schedule may not be convenient to many of the County's residents. While the bookmobile may provide books to those that can visit its stops, it does not provide computer access, children's reading programs, or other activities. The bookmobile was purchased in 2006, and it may need to be replaced in the next ten years at a cost of $150,000 to $185,000.

Despite the limited reach and square footage of its facilities, the library offers exceptional services to many residents of Pittsylvania County. The libraries have over 35,000 card holders, 760,000 materials in the collection, 45 public access computers, 154,000 visitors and 20,000 participants in programs annually. With expanded square footage and additional facilities, the libraries could offer the types of programs and services expected in modern libraries in similar communities. An investment in these facilities and services would allow Pittsylvania County to offer its residents and businesses the types of amenities needed to compete with other localities.

Community Survey

Community Characteristics, Relationships, and Demographics

Community Survey

Pittsylvania County

Pittsylvania County is the largest county in Virginia by land area, occupying 978 square miles. It is composed of a beautiful, rural landscape with rolling hills, open farmland, flowing rivers, and pristine lakes. Highway 29 bisects the County running north-south, and Routes 40, 57, and 58 cross the County running east to west. The larger towns and urban centers are located along highway 29 with the City of Danville at the southern end of the County. Although the county is included in the Danville Metropolitan Statistical Area, the county itself is sparsely populated and economically disadvantaged. The Pittsylvania County Libraries are located along Highway 29 in the center of the County. The more rural and isolated areas of the County are remote and lack convenient access to library services. The far reaches of the County are at the upper limit of driving time recommended by the Library of Virginia's "Planning for Library Excellence: Standards for Virginia Public Libraries". Libraries today provide services beyond checking out books, and providing shorter commuting times to offer convenient access to computers, the internet, and social programs is critical to supporting the needs of the community. The County does operate a book mobile to serve more remote areas, but the hours of operation and schedule are not convenient to all residents.

The county has seven districts, each with a unique population and unique needs. The districts to the east of Route 29 are Dan River, Banister, and Staunton River. Libraries are not currently located within these districts and residents must travel to Mt. Hermon, Chatham, and Gretna to access County Library services.   Residents of the County also utilize the service at the Altavista library in neighboring Campbell County, and libraries in the City of Danville.

Residents in these eastern districts have requested new or expanded library services to better serve their communities. The following information summarizes the unique features of these districts.
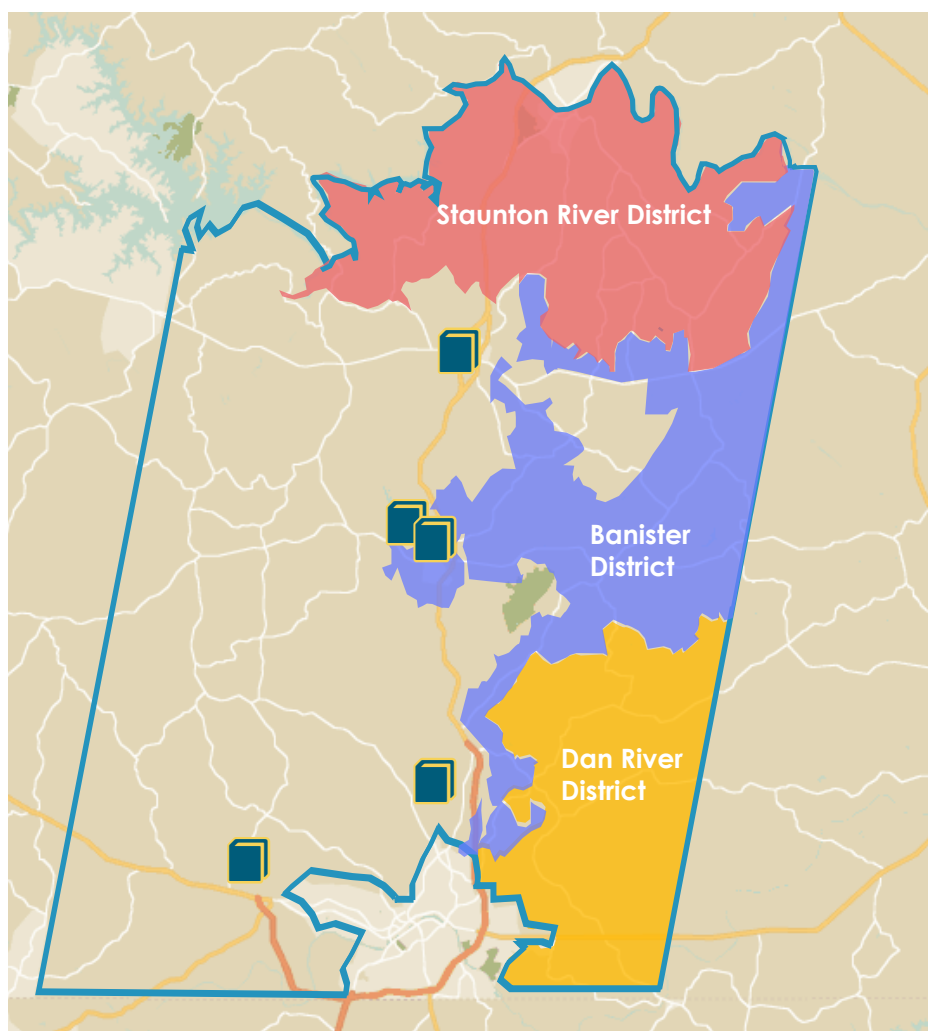
Dan River District

The Dan River District hugs the City of Danville to the East and North. It is the most densely populated district in the county with approximately 9,491 residents. The Dan River District has seen a recent influx of population due to a recent trend of families and professionals moving out of the City of Danville into the quieter confines of the suburbs. The Dan River District has a higher percentage of professionals with advanced degrees and in skilled occupations like engineering, IT, and administrative work residing in its borders than the neighboring districts.

The district has the largest proportion of people less than 20 years old, and is home to a growing family oriented population. The only elementary school seated in the district is Kentuck Elementary which has historically been a low-performing school across all grade levels. The Dan River District does not have a public library within its borders, so many residents and students access the closest facility, the Mt. Hermon Library.

Population Density
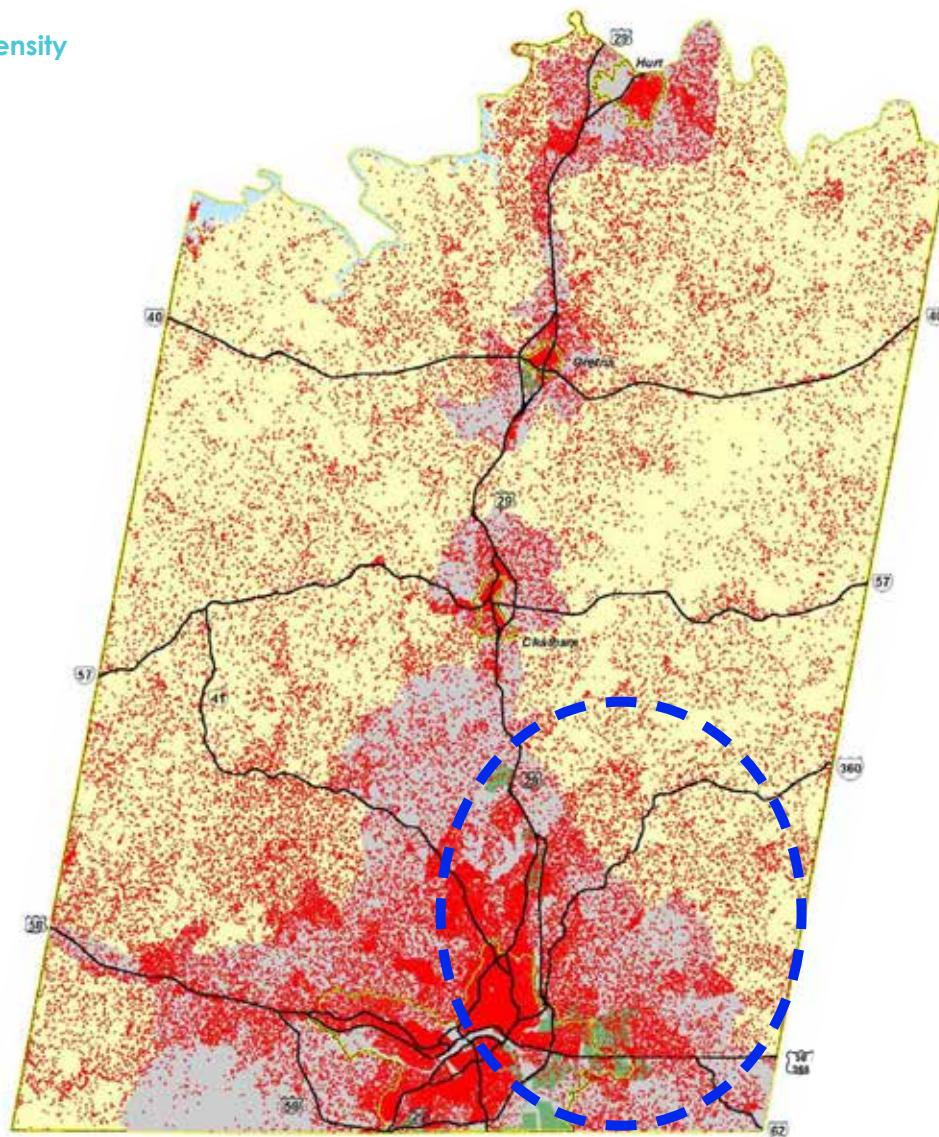
Dan River District
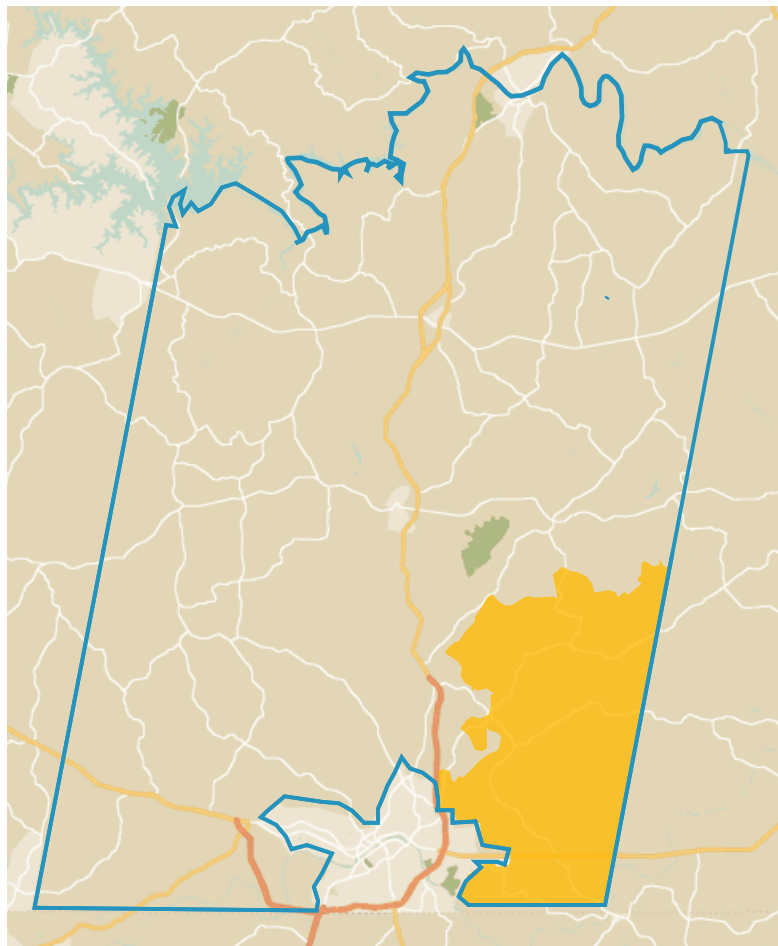
Total Population	9,491
Under 5	496
5-9	640
10-14	662
15-19	562
20-29	940
30-39	1,085
40-49	1,436
50-59	1,594
60 and older	2,076
Female	52%
Male	48%
White	79%
Black	19%
Other	2%
Families	72%
Singles	28%
Median HH Income	$42,100
Unemployment	5.4%
Receive Financial Assist.	21.3%
Less than High School	19%
High School Graduate	56%
Higher Degree	25%

Banister District

The Banister District is a diverse, sprawling, mostly rural district. The District has a very irregularly shaped boundary with narrow strips of land extending from the far north to the far south. There is a high single parent population in the district. Employment opportunities are limited with a large proportion of employment in the agricultural sector. The district has a lower than average number of children under 14, but a higher than average number of 15-17 year old teens. The largest age group in the district is over 60 years old. Mt. Airy Elementary serves the youth of the Banister District, but there is no branch library within the district. The majority of residents use the Chatham or Gretna Branches.

Population Density
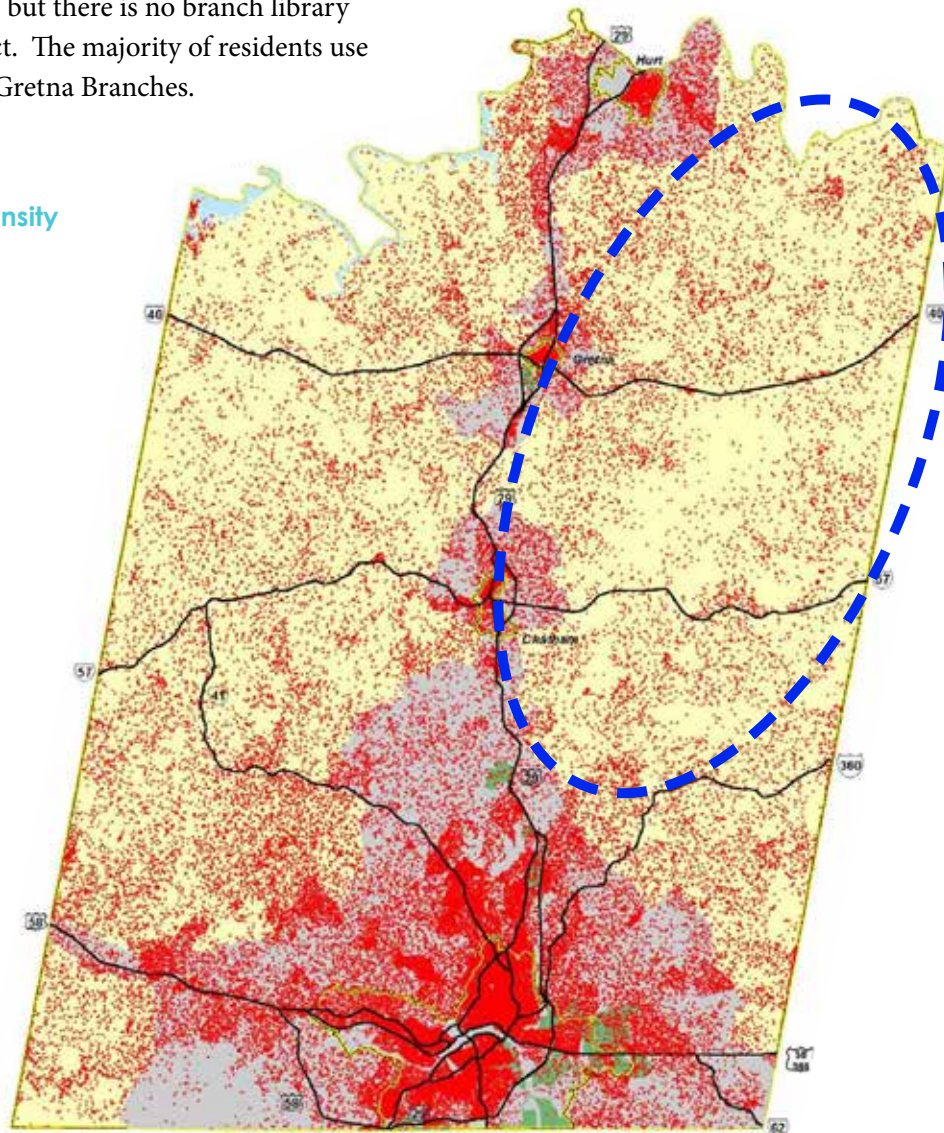
Banister District
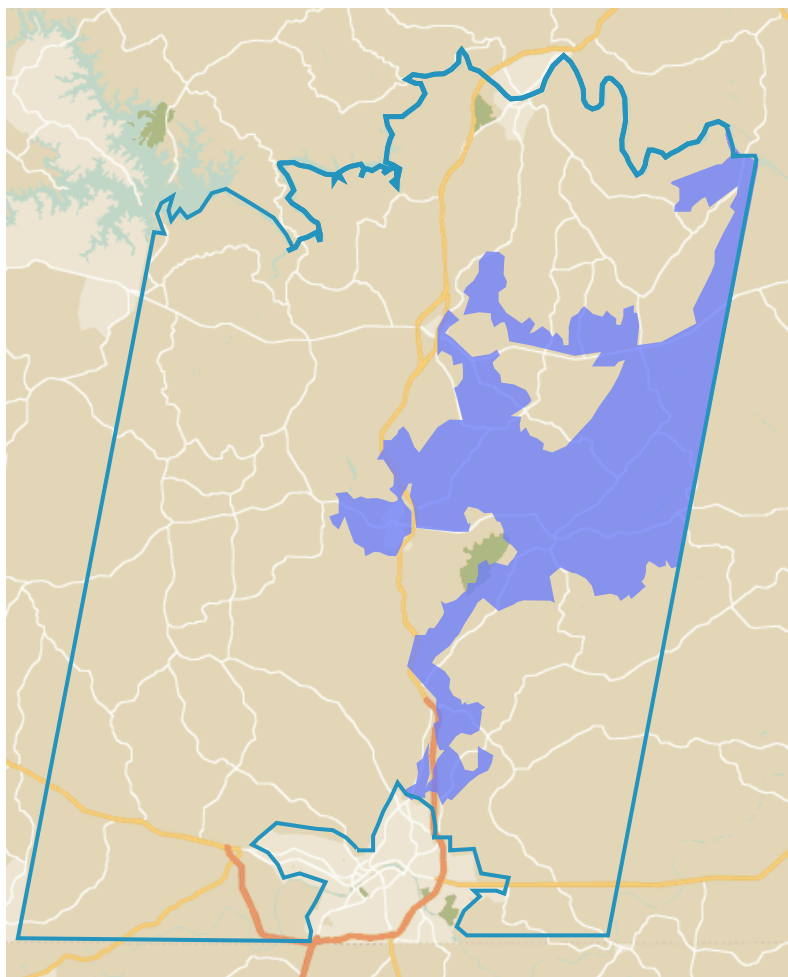
Total Population	8,279
Under 5	421
5-9	439
10-14	480
15-19	518
20-29	935
30-39	904
40-49	1,205
50-59	1,384
60 and older	1,993
Female	51%
Male	49%
White	44%
Black	53%
Other	3%
Families	68%
Singles	32%
Median HH Income	$38,200
Unemployment	3.3%
Receive Financial Assist.	21.6%
Less than High School	21%
High School Graduate	62%
Higher Degree	17%

Staunton River District

The Staunton River District is the northernmost district in the county. It has a high population density, although a low proportion of children live in the district. The district has a high unemployment rate, with the largest percentage of workers employed in production-based industries, such as manufacturing. Less than 1% of the population works in a STEM related field. The area is more economically disadvantaged than the Dan River District, but has a low crime rate. Once a bustling manufacturing hub, the district has recently lost many of its workforce due to industry leaving the area.

The Staunton River District contains Hurt Elementary, which is one of the higher performing elementary schools in the County. The population center is the Town of Hurt which is located on the northern edge of the County along the Roanoke River. Altavista is directly across the river from the Town of Hurt.

Population Density
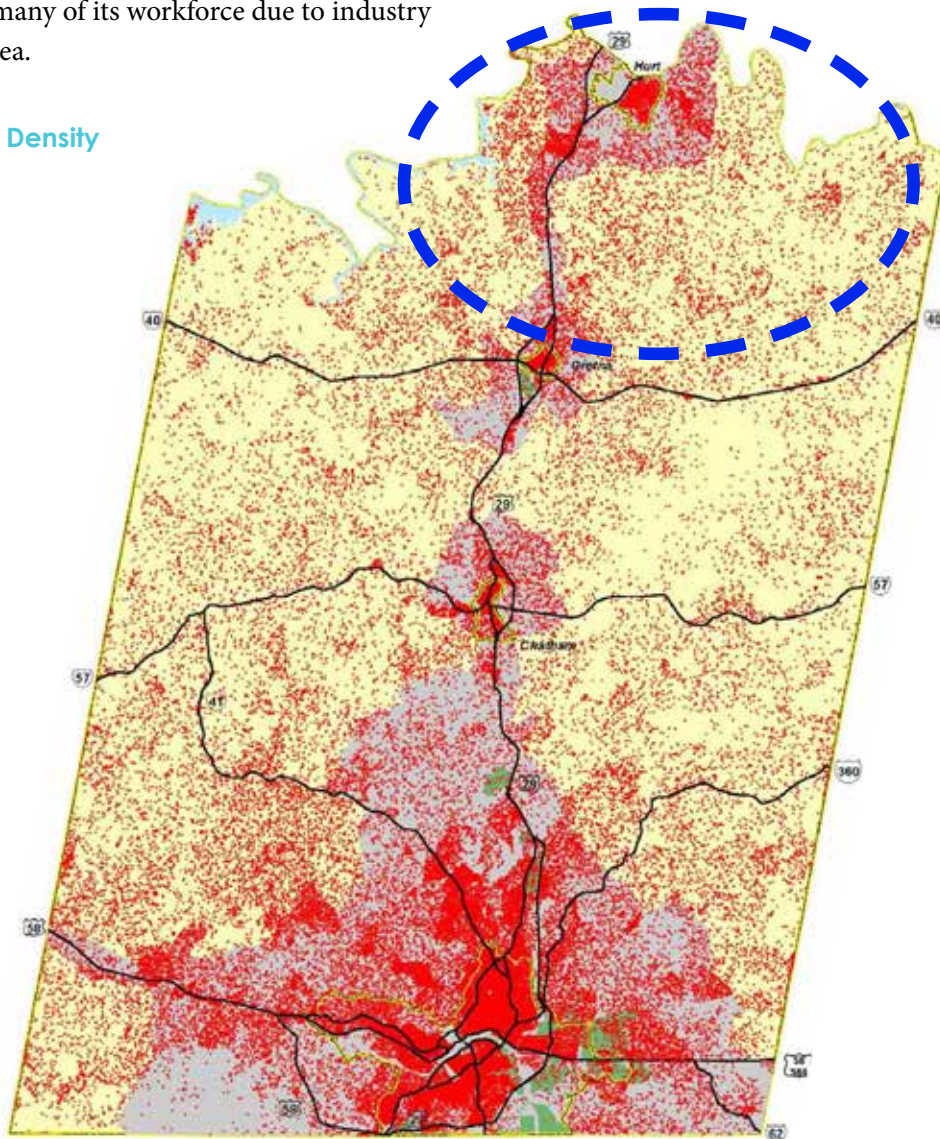
Staunton River District
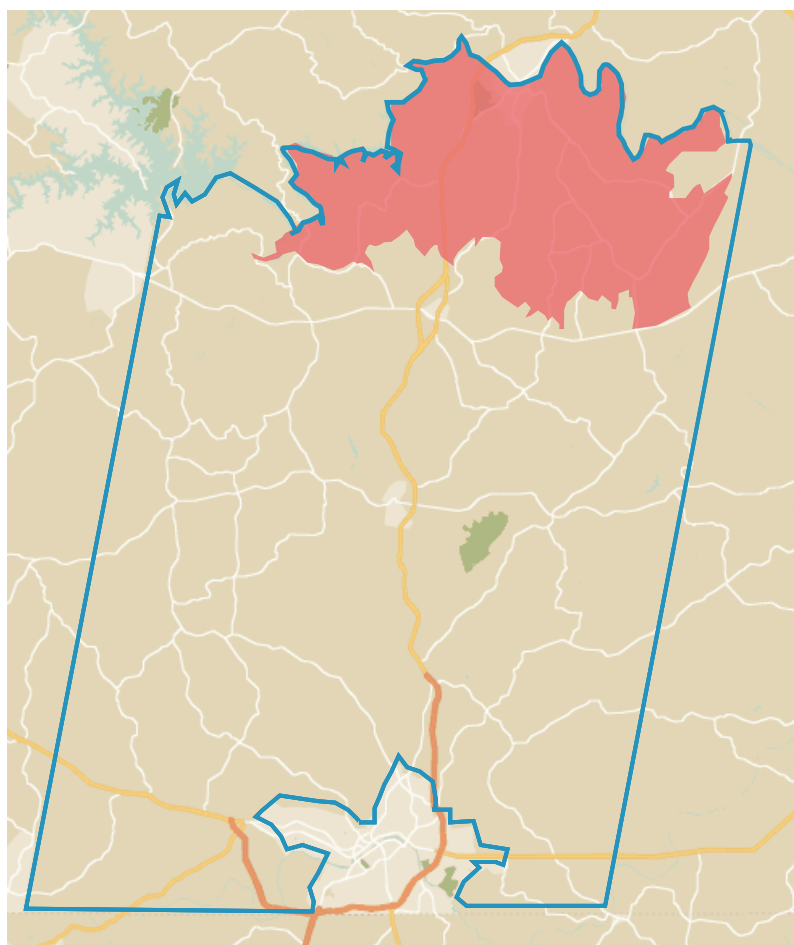
Total Population	8,877
Under 5	464
5-9	510
10-14	475
15-19	528
20-29	880
30-39	934
40-49	1,333
50-59	1,421
60 and older	2,332
Female	51%
Male	49%
White	78%
Black	21%
Other	1%
Families	68%
Singles	32%
Median HH Income	$38,900
Unemployment	3.4%
Receive Financial Assist.	14.4%
Less than High School	22%
High School Graduate	69%
Higher Degree	19%

A Compelling Need

The Importance of a Public Library

A Compelling Need

Pittsylvania County has many assets including a strong sense of community pride, scenic beauty, significant land area, rivers and lakes, and natural resources. Its economy has traditionally been based on agriculture, tobacco, manufacturing, and textiles. The decline of these market sectors has led to higher unemployment and lower income in the County. The County's median household income is $43,087, while in Virginia the average median household income was $71,535 in 2017. In Pittsylvania schools, 52%-73% of students qualify for economically disadvantaged assistance in nutrition programs. Despite the limited opportunities for higher paying jobs in the County, residents have worked hard to find employment in other sectors. The unemployment rate in 2018 was 3.6% which was only slightly higher than the average unemployment rate in Virginia. Nationally, job markets have shifted to service industries, technology, high tech manufacturing, and healthcare. Economic revitalization in Pittsylvania County depends on establishing a highly educated and trained work force, and attracting other businesses and industries to the area. Libraries in Pittsylvania County can help with economic revitalization by improving education and literacy rates, promoting science and technological innovation, and providing cultural amenities sought by residents and businesses considering relocating to the area. In June of 2018, the Pittsylvania County Library Board of Trustees published the "Library Expansion Concept Paper" which established a compelling need for expanded library services in the County. The following information summarizes and supplements the findings of that report, and the full version of the report can be found in the appendix to this document.

Education

Literacy and education are foundations for prosperity and economic advancement for people and localities. Early literacy and establishing a love for reading and lifelong learning is critical to developing a well educated and highly trained work force in a community. In Pittsylvania County, 90% of kindergarteners met the PALS (Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening) benchmark, but only 67% of Third Grade students met the benchmark. In the "Library Expansion Concept Paper" noted above, a correlation is reached between lower performing elementary schools and distance from public libraries. Many families in the rural areas of the County do not have access to books within the household. Providing convenient access to libraries in these communities will make it easier for these families to have access to early literacy books and programs. The existing libraries do a good job at conducting early literacy and summer reading programs, but making these programs more accessible to the remote areas of the County will provide opportunities to improve literacy for all residents. In several stakeholder meetings conducted as part of the data gathering process for this study, discussions suggested that a stronger partnership and more collaboration between the library system and school system would help to strengthen early literacy and reading programs.

Adult Education

Overall, Pittsylvania County has a low high school graduation rate and a high adult illiteracy rate. Estimates suggest that 5% to 15% of the County's population is illiterate. In the Dan River, Banister, and Staunton River Districts, only 56%-69% of the adult population holds a high school diploma. Many older residents dropped out of school to work in factories or in agriculture. Now that jobs in those market sectors are disappearing, many adults in the County are having difficulty finding good paying jobs. Libraries offer opportunities for adults to finish and expand their education. Libraries can offer G.E.D. classes to allow adults to obtain a high school equivalent diploma so that they can expand their employment opportunities or move onto receive college degrees. For many adults, the library offers the only source of information and guidance to show them opportunities and a path forward.

In the Banister stakeholder meeting as part of the information gathering sessions, a young man eloquently spoke about how the library showed him a path out of a difficult childhood and allowed him to see opportunities for a brighter future. He is now finishing online higher education classes through the library. Having convenient access to library services will allow adults in the County to improve their education, increase employment rates, and contribute to economic development in the County.

Career Assistance and Business Development

Libraries are one of the few locations where individuals go to seek assistance with job searching and career guidance. Many libraries offer assistance and training in resume writing, computer classes, job search and interview tactics, and guidance in searching for career opportunities. These resources are particularly important in economically disadvantaged communities and in economic downturns. This fact is very evident in the data and statistics which show a spike in library uses in 2011 in Pittsylvania County and around the Country.

Assistance offered by libraries extends beyond helping to find a job by helping entrepreneurs to start small businesses. Many libraries build facilities and programs to serve as business incubators. These facilities can be as simple as a multi-purpose conference room used by small business owners to meet clients. It can also mean access to business equipment, software, and technology that a startup business may not otherwise have access to. Many libraries setup a program to have volunteer accountants or attorneys to meet with startup business owners to provide free counseling on a weekly or monthly basis. All of these services and programs could help to support business growth and economic development in the County.

Access to Technology and Innovation

The rural nature and economic conditions of the County results in the lack of computer and internet access for the majority of residents in the County. The number of people using the public libraries for computer access is nearly double that of other localities. Public libraries serve as one of the only venues that cross the digital divide and provide free access to computers and the internet for all. In today's society, the transition to exclusively digital transactions is accelerating, and access to computers and the internet is critical for job searches and applications, school assignments, and filing government forms. Pittsylvania County desperately needs access to high speed internet services, and the public libraries are currently one of the only sources of that access for many residents.

Modern libraries are also serving as technology innovation centers to expose young people and adults alike to new technologies and opportunities. Newly constructed facilities should include an multi-purpose and flexible activity room to promote STEAM programs, focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math. These spaces accommodate a variety of activities for different age groups which might include a robotics club demonstrating and building robots, a gardening club promoting home gardening, or a watercolor painting class. Infrastructure for power, water, and storage for equipment including 3D printers, digital production equipment, or craft materials help to support this variety of activities. These types of spaces expose residents to ideas, technology, and opportunities to encourage them to expand and take advantage of their potential.

Economic and Social Impact

According to many studies including "Public Libraries- A Wise Investment" by Library Research Service, the return on investment in public libraries results in approximately $5 in economic benefit for every $1 invested. Many of these benefits are realized in the improvements in education and increase employment levels as described above. Construction of libraries also serves as a catalyst for growth and development in the areas surrounding their construction. They are an amenity that can attract other businesses and construction if planned appropriately. These factors help to increase revenue, property values, and the quality of life for the communities they serve. Libraries are one of the key institutions of a community needed to attract and retain residents and business as well as to help develop and build the social fabric which helps hold a community together. Libraries serve this function by providing a place for gathering discussion, and social engagement. They become the cultural and social centers of a community.

Community and Staff Input

What You Want in a Library

Community and Staff Input

In order to assist in defining the needs for new libraries, a series of staff and community input meetings were held over three days of information gathering. Stakeholder meetings were held with government officials, civic leaders, and school representatives in Dan River, Banister, and Staunton River. Evening community meetings were open to the public and citizens were encouraged to offer input on the need for expanded library services in their district. Staff interviews were conducted, and a detailed questionnaire was reviewed with staff to determine the specific requirements for collections, seating, program space and staff areas. The following library features were common requests for new library spaces.

- Access to computers and the internet is critical for Pittsylvania residents

- Libraries should be open, inviting, and incorporate natural light

- Additional community meeting space is needed for 50 to 75 occupants

- A separate children's program room is needed

- Flexible use activities rooms to accommodate STEAM programs should be provided

- Study rooms and tutoring rooms ranging in size from 2 to 6 people

- Additional programs for children and story time hours for working parents are needed

- Programs for early literacy and partnerships with the schools

- Libraries should be built where the need is greatest and where people will use them

- Outdoor programming space should be provided

- Abundant electrical outlets for charging devices are needed

- Libraries should accommodate a variety of activities including exercise and nutrition classes

- Senior activities should be included such as gardening, sewing, bingo, and health classes

- Libraries should be community centers

- Should have a café or bookstore feel

- Business center for business support and incubation

- Spaces for teens with gaming, study rooms, cafe

Satisfying the Need

What the PPLS Library Needs

Satisfying the Need

Program Summary

Based on input gathered during the initial discovery and information gathering phase, a list of spaces and square footages was established for each building. These lists include the traditional library spaces required for shelving and collections, seating, and program space. The spaces also incorporate study rooms, tutoring rooms, flexible use STEAM activity space, technology, and computers in response to community input. Incorporating the variety of spaces needed by the community is important, while still managing the size of the facility so that it is appropriate to the size of the community and reasonably achievable construction budgets. Later sections of this report compare the program and facility size to other libraries recently built in similar communities.

Based on the list of program spaces and required square footages, the projected area for new libraries would range between 11,000 and 12,000 square feet. This size library is significantly larger than other libraries in the system as a result of lower shelving, wider aisles, study rooms, tutoring rooms, larger meeting rooms, and separate program rooms.

Dan River District

Based on population density figures provided by the County and input provided by the community, the Dan River district may justify a slightly larger facility located near Danville in the Kentuck area. Residents currently visit the Mt. Hermon Library or the library in the City of Danville. Because of its slightly larger and more concentrated population, a 75 person community meeting room, larger program room, and additional study rooms are proposed for this library.

Banister

The Banister District is a large, irregularly shaped district which has sections that extend from north to south. The expansive land area is relatively spread out and sparsely populated, with no significant concentrations of housing or business centers. Most of the residents of this district visit the Chatham or Gretna Branches. Discussions with library staff have suggested that the same size collections and seating requirements should be programmed for Banister, but slightly smaller meeting room, program room, and study rooms are proposed based on the population demand. Based on the very spread out population of this district, further consideration should be given to whether or not a large new library should be built in Banister, or a smaller express library with another small express library in the Callands area on the western side of the County. Other considerations may include whether or not further expansions and renovations to the Chatham and Gretna Branches would better serve the Banister District.

Staunton River

The Staunton River District also has a smaller population than the Dan River District, but the population is concentrated around the Town of Hurt. Residents of the Staunton River District typically visit the Gretna Branch or the library in Altavista across the river in Campbell County. Similar to Banister, the same size collections and seating requirements are programmed for Staunton River as for each of the three districts, but a slightly smaller meeting room, program room, and study rooms are proposed based on the population demand.

Express Library

Some discussion has taken place of whether or not three 11,000 square libraries are warranted for each district. If three large libraries are constructed, the total square footage of library facilities for Pittsylvania County would be on the higher end of library space allocated for similar populations in other localities. An alternative would be to build two smaller express libraries in the more remote areas of the County to provide convenient access to basic library services. Other resources could be used to expand existing library facilities, or to build larger library facilities to serve the more densely populated areas and commercial centers. A suggested program has been provided for a smaller express library.

The following detailed program area spreadsheets list the proposed spaces and square footages for each district.

Pittsylvania County Library Expansion Study - Space Allocation Program
Dan River District

Area and Adjacency Summary by Department

Space Description	Qty	Unit Area SF	Net SF Area 1st Floor	Sub-total Net SF	Grossing Multiplier	Gross SF	Adjacency	Remarks
Entry Zone								
Entry Vestibule	1	100	100				Entry	
Entry Area/Display/Gallery	1	150	150				Entry	
New Books Display	1	25	25				Entry	
Interactive Display, information	1	25	25				Entry	
Café seating/vending	1	300	300				Entry	
Public Restrooms							Entry	
Men	1	150	150					
Women	1	150	150					
Sub-total Department Area				900	1.25	1,125		
Meeting /Study/ Program Rooms								
Community Meeting Room	1	1000	1000					75 occupants
Kitchenette	1	100	100				meeting room	
AV Equipment	1	25	25				meeting room	
Table and Chair Storage	1	150	150				meeting room	
Group Study Rooms							non-fiction	
2 person study room	2	50	100				young adult, adult area	
6 person study room	1	150	150				young adult, adult area	
Flexible Activity/STEAM Room	1	500	500				youth services/young adult/adult	
storage room	1	75	75					
Sub-total Department Area				2,100	1.25	2,625		
Adult Services								
Adult Collections	1	1158	1158				fiction, non-fiction	
OPACS	1	25	25					
Public computers	10	25	250				staff desk	
Express computers	3	25	75				staff desk	

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Pittsylvania County Library Expansion Study - Space Allocation Program
Dan River District

Space Description	Qty	Unit Area SF	1st Floor Net SF Area	Sub-total Net SF	Grossing Multiplier	Gross SF	Adjacency	Remarks
Printer	2	25	50				computers	
Copy Area							Entry area, Circulation	
Copy area	1	100	100				adult	
Counter	1	50	50				adult	
laptop storage/charging	1	25	25				staff desk	
Seating Periodicals								
4 person table	0	50	0					
2 person table	2	25	50					
Lounge seating	4	25	100					
Seating Adult Fiction								
4 person table	1	50	50					
2 person table	2	25	50					
Lounge seating	2	25	50					
Seating Adult Non-Fiction								
4 person table	1	50	50					
2 person table	2	25	50					
Lounge seating	2	25	50					
Sub-total Department Area				**2,183**	**1.25**	**2,729**		
Youth Services								
Youth Collections	1	598	598					
Staff Desk	1	100	100					
Storage /work room	1	80	80				program room	
Self Check	0	25	0					

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Pittsylvania County Library Expansion Study - Space Allocation Program
Dan River District

Space Description	Qty Unit	Unit Area SF	1st Floor Net SF Area	Sub-total Net SF	Grossing Multiplier	Gross SF	Adjacency	Remarks
OPACS	1	25	25					
Interactive display	1	50	50					
Interactive play/learning	1	150	150					
Public Computers	2	25	50					
Early literacy AWE compters	0	25	0					
Family computer	0	25	0					
Family Restroom	1	50	50					
Seating								
4 person table-low	2	50	100					
4 person table-standard	0	50	0					
Parent and child seat	1	40	40					
Lounge seating	2	25	50					
Pods	4	16	64					
Window seats	1	50	50					
Sub-total Department Area				**1,407**	**1.25**	**1,759**		
Young Adult								
Young Adult Collections	1	78	78					
Public computers	4	25	100					
OPACS	0	25	0					
Seating								
4 person table	1	50	50					
2 person table	1	25	25					
Lounge seating	2	20	40					
Gaming chairs	0	50	0					

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Pittsylvania County Library Expansion Study - Space Allocation Program
Dan River District

Space Description	Qty Unit	Area SF	1st Floor Net SF Area	Sub-total Net SF	Grossing Multiplier	Gross SF	Adjacency	Remarks
Window seat/booth	1	50	50				entrance	
Sub-total Department Area				**343**	**1.25**	**429**		
Staff Areas								
Circulation Desk	1	150	150				entrance	
Holds shelving	3	9	27				out on floor, not at desk	
Self Check	0	25	0				circulation desk	
Book return	0	40	0				Circulation workroom	
Staff Workrooms								
Branch Manager	1	120	120					
full-time librarian	2	36	72				2 staff	
part-time	1	36	36				2 staff	
Work table	1	100	100					
Book carts	3	15	45					
Interlibrary totes area	1	50	50					
Shelving	3	9	27					
work counter	1	75	75					with sink
copier	1	50	50					
office supplies storage	1	25	25					
general storage	1	100	100					
book storage	1	50	50					
Staff break room	1	150	150					
Staff restroom	1	50	50					
Network closet	1	100	100					

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Pittsylvania County Library Expansion Study - Space Allocation Program
Dan River District

Space Description	Qty Unit	Area SF 1st Floor Net SF Area	Sub-total Net SF	Grossing Multiplier	Gross SF	Adjacency	Remarks
Sub-total Department Area			**1,227**	**1.25**	**1,534**		
Building Support Areas							
Mechanical Room	1	300 300					
Electrical Room	1	80 80					
Janitor's closet/ storage	1	50 50					
Sub-total Department Area			**430**	**1.25**	**538**		

TOTAL AREA	**10,738**
Building Grossing Multiplier	1.10
TOTAL BUILDING AREA	**11,811**

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Pittsylvania County Library Expansion Study - Space Allocation Program
Banister District

Area and Adjacency Summary by Department

Space Description	Qty	Unit Area SF	Net SF Area 1st Floor	Sub-total Net SF	Grossing Multiplier	Gross SF	Adjacency	Remarks
Entry Zone								
Entry Vestibule	1	100	100				Entry	
Entry Area/Display/Gallery	1	150	150				Entry	
New Books Display	1	25	25				Entry	
Interactive Display, information	1	25	25				Entry	
Café seating/vending	1	250	250				Entry	
Public Restrooms							Entry	
Men	1	150	150					
Women	1	150	150					
Sub-total Department Area				**850**	**1.25**	**1,063**		
Meeting /Study/ Program Rooms								
Community Meeting Room	1	750	750					40 occupants
Kitchenette	1	100	100				meeting room	
AV Equipment	1	25	25				meeting room	
Table and Chair Storage	1	100	100				meeting room	
Group Study Rooms							non-fiction	
2 person study room	2	50	100				young adult, adult area	
6 person study room	1	150	150				young adult, adult area	
Flexible Activity/STEAM Room	1	400	400				youth services/young adult/adult	
storage room	1	50	50					
Sub-total Department Area				**1,675**	**1.25**	**2,094**		
Adult Services								
Adult Collections	1	1158	1158				fiction, non-fiction	
OPACS	1	25	25					
Public computers	10	25	250				staff desk	
Express computers	2	25	50				staff desk	

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Pittsylvania County Library Expansion Study - Space Allocation Program
Banister District

Space Description	Qty	Unit Area SF	1st Floor Net SF Area	Sub-total Net SF	Grossing Multiplier	Gross SF	Adjacency	Remarks
Printer	2	25	50				computers	
Copy Area							Entry area, Circulation	
Copy area	1	100	100				adult	
Counter	1	50	50				adult	
laptop storage/charging	1	25	25				staff desk	
Seating Periodicals								
4 person table	0	50	0					
2 person table	2	25	50					
Lounge seating	4	25	100					
Seating Adult Fiction								
4 person table	1	50	50					
2 person table	2	25	50					
Lounge seating	2	25	50					
Seating Adult Non-Fiction								
4 person table	1	50	50					
2 person table	2	25	50					
Lounge seating	2	25	50					
Sub-total Department Area				**2,158**	**1.25**	**2,698**		
Youth Services								
Youth Collections	1	598	598					
Staff Desk	1	100	100					
Storage /work room	1	80	80				program room	
Self Check	0	25	0					

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Pittsylvania County Library Expansion Study - Space Allocation Program
Banister District

Space Description	Qty Unit	Area SF Unit	1st Floor Net SF Area	Sub-total Net SF	Grossing Multiplier	Gross SF	Adjacency	Remarks
OPACS	1	25	25					
Interactive display	1	50	50					
Interactive play/learning	1	150	150					
Public Computers	2	25	50					
Early literacy AWE compters	0	25	0					
Family computer	0	25	0					
Family Restroom	1	50	50					
Seating								
4 person table-low	2	50	100					
4 person table-standard	0	50	0					
Parent and child seat	1	40	40					
Lounge seating	2	25	50					
Pods	4	16	64					
Window seats	1	50	50					
Sub-total Department Area				**1,407**	**1.25**	**1,759**		
Young Adult								
Young Adult Collections	1	78	78					
Public computers	4	25	100					
OPACS	0	25	0					
Seating								
4 person table	1	50	50					
2 person table	1	25	25					
Lounge seating	2	20	40					
Gaming chairs	0	50	0					

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Pittsylvania County Library Expansion Study - Space Allocation Program
Banister District

Space Description	Qty	Unit Area SF	1st Floor Net SF Area	Sub-total Net SF	Grossing Multiplier	Gross SF	Adjacency	Remarks
Window seat/booth	1	50	50					
Sub-total Department Area				**343**	**1.25**	**429**		
Staff Areas								
Circulation Desk	1	150	150				entrance	
Holds shelving	3	9	27				out on floor, not at desk	
Self Check	0	25	0				circulation desk	
Book return	0	40	0				Circulation workroom	
Staff Workrooms								
Branch Manager	1	120	120					
full-time staff	2	36	72				2 staff	
part-time staff	1	36	36				2 staff	
Work table	1	100	100					
Book carts	3	15	45					
Interlibrary totes area	1	50	50					
Shelving	3	9	27					
work counter	1	75	75					with sink
copier	1	50	50					
office supplies storage	1	25	25					
general storage	1	100	100					
book storage	1	50	50					
Staff break room	1	150	150					
Staff restroom	1	50	50					
Network closet	1	100	100					

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Pittsylvania County Library Expansion Study - Space Allocation Program
Banister District

Space Description	Qty Unit	Area SF 1st Floor	Net SF Area	Sub-total Net SF	Grossing Multiplier	Gross SF	Adjacency	Remarks
Sub-total Department Area				**1,227**	**1.25**	**1,534**		
Building Support Areas								
Mechanical Room	1	300	300					
Electrical Room	1	80	80					
Janitor's closet/ storage	1	50	50					
Sub-total Department Area				**430**	**1.25**	**538**		

TOTAL AREA		**10,113**
Building Grossing Multiplier		1.10
TOTAL BUILDING AREA		**11,124**

Pittsylvania County Library Expansion Study - Space Allocation Program
Staunton River District

Area and Adjacency Summary by Department

Space Description	Qty	Unit Area SF	1st Floor Net SF Area	Sub-total Net SF	Grossing Multiplier	Gross SF	Adjacency	Remarks
Entry Zone								
Entry Vestibule	1	100	100				Entry	
Entry Area/Display/Gallery	1	150	150				Entry	
New Books Display	1	25	25				Entry	
Interactive Display, information	1	25	25				Entry	
Café seating/vending	1	250	250				Entry	
Public Restrooms							Entry	
Men	1	150	150					
Women	1	150	150					
Sub-total Department Area				850	1.25	1,063		
Meeting /Study/ Program Rooms								
Community Meeting Room	1	875	875					50 occupants
Kitchenette	1	100	100				meeting room	
AV Equipment	1	25	25				meeting room	
Table and Chair Storage	1	120	120				meeting room	
Group Study Rooms							non-fiction	
2 person study room	2	50	100				young adult, adult area	
6 person study room	1	150	150				young adult, adult area	
Flexible Activity/STEAM Room	1	400	400				youth services/young adult/adult	
storage room	1	50	50					
Sub-total Department Area				1,820	1.25	2,275		
Adult Services								
Adult Collections	1	1158	1158				fiction, non-fiction	
OPACS	1	25	25					
Public computers	10	25	250				staff desk	
Express computers	2	25	50				staff desk	

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Pittsylvania County Library Expansion Study - Space Allocation Program
Staunton River District

Space Description	Qty	Unit Area SF	1st Floor Net SF Area	Sub-total Net SF	Grossing Multiplier	Gross SF	Adjacency	Remarks
Printer	2	25	50				computers	
Copy Area							Entry area, Circulation	
Copy area	1	100	100					
Counter	1	50	50				adult	
laptop storage/charging	1	25	25				staff desk	
Seating Periodicals								
4 person table	0	50	0					
2 person table	2	25	50					
Lounge seating	4	25	100					
Seating Adult Fiction								
4 person table	1	50	50					
2 person table	2	25	50					
Lounge seating	2	25	50					
Seating Adult Non-Fiction								
4 person table	1	50	50					
2 person table	2	25	50					
Lounge seating	2	25	50					
Sub-total Department Area				**2,158**	**1.25**	**2,698**		
Youth Services								
Youth Collections	1	598	598					
Staff Desk	1	100	100				program room	
Storage /work room	1	80	80					
Self Check	0	25	0					

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Pittsylvania County Library Expansion Study - Space Allocation Program
Staunton River District

Space Description	Qty Unit	Area SF	Net SF Area 1st Floor	Sub-total Net SF	Grossing Multiplier	Gross SF	Adjacency	Remarks
OPACS	1	25	25					
Interactive display	1	50	50					
Interactive play/learning	1	150	150					
Public Computers	2	25	50					
Early literacy AWE compters	0	25	0					
Family computer	0	25	0					
Family Restroom	1	50	50					
Seating								
4 person table-low	2	50	100					
4 person table-standard	0	50	0					
Parent and child seat	1	40	40					
Lounge seating	2	25	50					
Pods	4	16	64					
Window seats	1	50	50					
Sub-total Department Area				**1,407**	**1.25**	**1,759**		
Young Adult								
Young Adult Collections	1	78	78					
Public computers	4	25	100					
OPACS	0	25	0					
Seating								
4 person table	1	50	50					
2 person table	1	25	25					
Lounge seating	2	20	40					
Gaming chairs	0	50	0					

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Pittsylvania County Library Expansion Study - Space Allocation Program
Staunton River District

Space Description	Qty Unit	Area SF	1st Floor Net SF Area	Sub-total Net SF	Grossing Multiplier	Gross SF	Adjacency	Remarks
Window seat/booth	1	50	50					
Sub-total Department Area				**343**	**1.25**	**429**		
Staff Areas								
Circulation Desk	1	150	150				entrance	
Holds shelving	3	9	27				out on floor, not at desk	
Self Check	0	25	0				circulation desk	
Book return	0	40	0				Circulation workroom	
Staff Workrooms								
Branch Manager	1	120	120					
full-time staff	2	36	72				2 staff	
part-time staff	1	36	36				2 staff	
Work table	1	100	100					
Book carts	3	15	45					
Interlibrary totes area	1	50	50					
Shelving	3	9	27					
work counter	1	75	75					with sink
copier	1	50	50					
office supplies storage	1	25	25					
general storage	1	100	100					
book storage	1	50	50					
Staff break room	1	150	150					
Staff restroom	1	50	50					
Network closet	1	100	100					

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Pittsylvania County Library Expansion Study - Space Allocation Program
Staunton River District

Space Description	Qty	Unit Area SF	1st Floor Net SF Area	Sub-total Net SF	Grossing Multiplier	Gross SF	Adjacency	Remarks
Sub-total Department Area				1,227	1.25	1,534		
Building Support Areas								
Mechanical Room	1	300	300					
Electrical Room	1	80	80					
Janitor's closet/ storage	1	50	50					
Sub-total Department Area				430	1.25	538		

TOTAL AREA	10,294
Building Grossing Multiplier	1.10
TOTAL BUILDING AREA	11,323

Pittsylvania County Library Expansion Study - Space Allocation Program
Express Library

Area and Adjacency Summary by Department

Space Description	Qty	Unit Area SF	1st Floor Net SF Area	Sub-total Net SF	Grossing Multiplier	Gross SF	Adjacency	Remarks
Entry Zone								
Entry Vestibule	1	80	80				Entry	
Entry Area/Display/Gallery	1	100	100				Entry	
New Books Display	1	25	25				Entry	
Interactive Display, information	0	25	0				Entry	
Café seating/vending	0	250	0				Entry	
Public Restrooms							Entry	
Men	1	50	50					
Women	1	50	50					
Sub-total Department Area				305	1.25	381		
Meeting /Study/ Program Rooms								
Community Meeting Room	0	750	0					40 occupants
Kitchenette	0	100	0				meeting room	
AV Equipment	0	25	0				meeting room	
Table and Chair Storage	0	100	0				meeting room	
Group Study Rooms							non-fiction	
2 person study room	0	50	0				young adult, adult area	
4 person study room	1	120	120				young adult, adult area	
Flexible Activity/STEAM Room	1	400	400				youth services/young adult/adult	
storage room	0	50	0					
Sub-total Department Area				520	1.25	650		
Adult Services								
Adult Collections	1	500	500				fiction, non-fiction	
OPACS	1	25	25					
Public computers	4	25	100				staff desk	
Express computers	1	25	25				staff desk	

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Pittsylvania County Library Expansion Study - Space Allocation Program
Express Library

Space Description	Qty	Unit Area SF	Net SF Area 1st Floor	Sub-total Net SF	Grossing Multiplier	Gross SF	Adjacency	Remarks
Printer	1	25	25				computers	
Copy Area							Entry area, Circulation	
Copy area	1	75	75				adult	
Counter	1	25	25				adult	
laptop storage/charging	0	25	0				staff desk	
Seating Periodicals								
4 person table	0	50	0					
2 person table	2	25	50					
Lounge seating	2	25	50					
Seating Adult Fiction								
4 person table	0	50	0					
2 person table	2	25	50					
Lounge seating	2	25	50					
Seating Adult Non-Fiction								
4 person table	1	50	50					
2 person table	0	25	0					
Lounge seating	0	25	0					
Sub-total Department Area				**1,025**	**1.25**	**1,281**		
Youth Services								
Youth Collections	1	350	350					
Staff Desk	0	100	0					
Storage /work room	0	80	0					program room
Self Check	0	25	0					

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Pittsylvania County Library Expansion Study - Space Allocation Program
Express Library

Space Description	Qty	Unit Area SF	1st Floor Net SF Area	Sub-total Net SF	Grossing Multiplier	Gross SF	Adjacency	Remarks
OPACS	1	25	25					
Interactive display	0	50	0					
Interactive play/learning	1	100	100					
Public Computers	2	25	50					
Early literacy AWE compters	0	25	0					
Family computer	0	25	0					
Family Restroom	0	50	0					
Seating								
4 person table-low	1	50	50					
4 person table-standard	0	50	0					
Parent and child seat	0	40	0					
Lounge seating	2	25	50					
Pods	2	16	32					
Window seats	0	50	0					
Sub-total Department Area				**657**	**1.25**	**821**		

Young Adult

Space Description	Qty	Unit Area SF	1st Floor Net SF Area	Sub-total Net SF	Grossing Multiplier	Gross SF	Adjacency	Remarks
Young Adult Collections	1	75	75					
Public computers	2	25	50					
OPACS	0	25	0					
Seating								
4 person table	1	50	50					
2 person table	0	25	0					
Lounge seating	2	20	40					
Gaming chairs	0	50	0					

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Pittsylvania County Library Expansion Study - Space Allocation Program
Express Library

Space Description	Qty	Unit Area SF	1st Floor Net SF Area	Sub-total Net SF	Grossing Multiplier	Gross SF	Adjacency	Remarks
Window seat/booth	0	50	0					
Sub-total Department Area				215	1.25	269		
Staff Areas								
Circulation Desk	1	100	100				entrance	
Holds shelving	1	9	9				out on floor, not at desk	
Self Check	0	25	0				circulation desk	
Book return	0	40	0				Circulation workroom	
Staff Workrooms								
Branch Manager	0	120	0					
full-time staff	2	36	72				2 staff	
part-time staff	1	36	36				2 staff	
Work table	0	100	0					
Book carts	3	15	45					
Interlibrary totes area	1	25	25					
Shelving	2	9	18					
work counter	1	75	75					with sink
copier	0	50	0					
office supplies storage	1	20	20					
general storage	1	50	50					
book storage	0	50	0					
Staff break room	1	120	120					
Staff restroom	0	50	0					
Network closet	1	25	25					

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Pittsylvania County Library Expansion Study - Space Allocation Program
Express Library

Space Description	Qty Unit	Area SF	1st Floor Net SF Area	Sub-total Net SF	Grossing Multiplier	Gross SF	Adjacency	Remarks
Sub-total Department Area				595	1.25	744		
Building Support Areas								
Mechanical Room	1	25	25					
Electrical Room	0	80	0					
Janitor's closet/ storage	1	25	25					
Sub-total Department Area				50	1.25	63		

TOTAL AREA		4,209
Building Grossing Multiplier		1.00 interior only
TOTAL BUILDING AREA		4,209

Pittsylvania County Librayr System
Library Expansion Feasibilty Study

Library of Virginia
Planning for Library Excellence: Standards for Virginia Public Libraries

Service Population	10,000				15,000			
Branch	**Pittsylvania County Branch Standard**							
Category	A	AA	AAA	Proposed	A	AA	AAA	Proposed
Collections	20,000	35,000	45,000	**23,018**	30,000	52,500	67,500	**23,018**
Gross Square Feet	6,000	8,000	10,000		9,000	12,000	15,000	
Computers	3	5	10		5	8	15	
Hours	40	68	76		40	68	76	
Library Card Holders	2,500	4,000	6,000		3,750	6,000	9,000	

Seating Calculations

Illinois Public Library Association

	Baseline		per 1000		Total Seats	Proposed
Population 10,000	60	+	3.0	for every 1,000 over 10,00	60	
Population 15,000	60	+	3.0	for every 1,000 over 10,00	75	

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Public Library Space Needs: A Planning Outline

	Pop.		Per 1000	Seats	Use Factor	Total Seats	Proposed
Population 10,000	10,000	1,000	7.0	70	0.80	56	
Population 15,000	15,000	1,000	7.0	105	0.80	84	

Seating Program					
QTY	DESCRIPTION	#/ UNIT	TOTAL	SF/UNIT	Total SF
Children's Area					
2	4 person table low	4	8	50	100
0	4 person table standard	4	0	50	0
4	Pod/child seat	1	4	16	64
1	Parent/child seat	2	2	40	40
2	Lounge seats	1	2	25	50
1	Window seats	4	4	50	50
	Sub-total Children's		**20**		**304**
Young Adult's Area					
2	Lounge seats	1	2	25	50
1	4 person table	4	4	50	50
1	2 person table (café height)	2	2	25	25
0	Gaming chairs	1	0	25	0
1	window seat or booth	4	4	50	50
	Sub-total Young Adult		**12**		**175**
Adult's Area					
	Periodicals				
4	Lounge seating	1	4	25	100
0	4 person table	4	0	50	0
2	2 person table	2	4	25	50
0	study carrels	1	0	25	0
	Sub-total Periodicals		**8**		**150**
	Adult Fiction				
1	4 person table	4	4	50	50
2	2 person table	2	4	25	50
2	Lounge seating	1	2	25	50
0	study carrels	1	0	25	0
	Sub-total Adult Fiction		**10**		**150**
	Adult Non-Fiction				
1	4 person table	4	4	50	50
2	2 person table	2	4	25	50
2	Lounge seating	1	2	25	50
	Sub-total Adult Non-Fiction		**10**		**150**
Café Area					
2	2 person table	2	4	25	50
1	Booths	4	4	50	50
2	Lounge seating	1	2	25	50
	Sub-total Café		**10**		**150**
Outside Seating					
1	4 person table	4	4	50	50
2	2 person table	2	4	25	50
1	6 person table	6	6	85	85
	Sub-total Café		**14**		**185**
TOTAL SEATS			**84**		**1,264**

Performance Measures and Trends

How the PPLS Measures Up

Pittsylvania Public Libraries Performance Track 2006 - 2016											
	2006	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**
Population	61,400	61,800	62,275	62,275	61,731	62,253	62,713	63,535	62,986	63,125	63,167
Borrowers	18,668	18,048	20,227	22,435	24,180	25,745	27,463	29,177	30,704	31,967	33,338
Visits	120,281	123,899	134,781	174,806	176,208	170,599	183,440	186,948	182,362	197,442	164,628
Circulation	234,013	260,959	266,429	320,549	334,228	349,523	362,344	355,815	351,896	351,051	399,904
Reference Inq	4,289	4,570	3,567	11,897	11,542	9,452	12,092	14,090	13,838	11,061	10,829
Program Attendance	6,002	6,231	5,004	5,524	5,612	5,709	5,720	9,196	12,444	19,032	16,854
# Computers	32	31	35	38	38	39	39	44	45	45	46
WiFi Use									3,167	74,445	64,056
Computer Use	14,236	18,048	20,763	26,369	31,744	46,712	70,605	80,600	80,082	91,417	76,175
Print Collection	107,208	108,473	112,148	117,731	120,782	121,436	122,615	123,119	117,472	126,156	124,718
Audio Collection	4,322	4,491	4,559	4,687	4,694	2,869	2,726	5,532	5,126	3,885	3,834
Video Collection	5,261	5,821	7,022	9,469	10,526	11,019	11,547	10,910	11,535	11,870	12,540

VA Program Attendance by Year, 2009-2016

Performance Measures and Trends

Performance Measures

In order to determine if facilities, services, and programs offered by Pittsylvania County are appropriate and adequate for its residents, it is useful to make a comparisons to National and Virginia trends in library services, as well as comparisons to peer library institutions in similar communities.

To gain perspective, the Pittsylvania Public Library System's performance is compared in the following measures:

- Population
- Registered Card Holders
- Visits
- Circulation
- Reference Transactions
- Program Attendance
- Public Computing

As with all statistics, the patterns that emerge from the analysis of a measure are driven by multiple factors. An assessment of the physical drivers of these patterns is included below.

Population

Population growth since 2006 has been slow, with some increases and some decreases, with a 3% total growth over the years between 2006 and 2016.

This is a slower growth rate than for Virginia as a whole. Virginia's growth has been just over 8% in the corresponding period.

The national rate of growth is in line with the state growth at just over 8% between 2006 and 2016.

Registered Card Holders

The number of registered card holders in Pittsylvania has increased significantly over the years. The registration level of 30% in 2006 has increased to an eye-popping level of 53% in 2016.

Registered card holder levels in the Commonwealth over the same period have increased from 57% to 59% with a peak of 60% in 2011.

Nationally, registration levels have been consistent at the 54% to 56% figure. The years from 2013 to 2016 have seen no deviation from the 54% registration mark.

Visits

Pittsylvania Public Libraries saw significant growth in the number of visitors to the libraries since 2006. The recent pattern saw dramatic increase in 2009 and maintained a steady uprise, with a few dips, to the present. Visits decreased slightly in 2011, 2014, and 2016. 2016 visits are just below the high-level increase total number seen in 2009. It is typical to see increase in library visits during economic downturns.

Across the Commonwealth, libraries experienced a similar pattern but with larger rates of increase leading up to a peak increase of 8% in 2008. The pattern showed a similar decline in visits since 2011. With current levels being 86% of the 2011 figure.

Nationally, the number of library visits has increased over the 2000-2016 period by 18%. Most of this was between 2000 and 2009. Visits have declined slightly since, usually at a rate of 1 or 2% per year. The exception is reported for 2016 which say a 3% decline in the number of visits. The 2016 visit are 89% of the 2011 count.

Circulation

Circulation at Pittsylvania Public Libraries since 2006 also ebbed and flowed. 2006 to 2012 increased to a peak in 2012 with a total of 362,344 items circulated and a significant reduction since, with the marked exception of 2016. 2016 saw a 17% higher rate than circulation totals in 2006.

In Virginia, the circulation count shows a similar trend with an increase from 2006 through 2011 and then declining totals since. The overall growth since 2000 still shows an increase of almost 27%, but the recent pattern (2011-2016) shows a 12% decline.

The national trend exhibits the same pattern. Growth is steady from 2006 to 2011 and declines are consistent between 2011 and 2016.

The decline in circulation can be partly attributed to a decline in library visits as a result of improved economic conditions and a stronger job market. Changes in media platforms and availability of digital content has also influence circulation rates.

Since 2000, the number of ways in which information is stored, accessed, and made available in libraries has changed. Physical collections have been supplemented by a series of digital platforms. This availability of electronic resources has become an emerging component of library service. Libraries will need to continue to evolve in the way that they deliver content to the public through hard copy print and digital materials. Space will still be required for print materials, and other programs, services, and technology will expand the space requirements to provide access to technology, science, entertainment and culture as libraries extend their roles as innovation and cultural centers of a community.

Corresponding to the emergence of the technology, the tracking of e-material circulation has evolved. In the 2011 to 2016 window, the statistic is basic (e-materials circulated) but it does give an indication that part of the decline in physical circulation is offset by loaning of digital material.

E-materials at Pittsylvania Public Libraries were about 2.5% of the physical circulation figure in 2016. This compares to 8% across Virginia and 10% across the United States.

Reference Transactions

Reference transactions are one of the more notable areas in which digital resources in one form or another have transformed libraries. However, against trends, reference at Pittsylvania Public libraries is up almost an unbelievable 250% since 2006. There was a huge jump in inquiries between 2008 and 2009. Since then, each year has alternated between rising and lowering. In 2016, there were a recorded 10,829 reference uses, significantly lower than the 2013 high of 14,090. These inquiries may also correlate to changes in economic conditions during those time frames.

In Virginia reference usage is down 7% since 2006 and 12.5% between 2011 and 2016.
Nationally these figures are down 15.5% and 16.2% respectively.

Program Attendance

The number of programs and the attendance at these programs at Pittsylvania Public Libraries have also increased. At Pittsylvania Public Libraries, the overall attendance figures for all ages increased 280% between 2006 and 2016. There was a decrease of 5% between 2006 and 2012, with a huge jump and then steady increase since 2014. Program attendance for 2016 was at an all-time high of 16,854.

Program attendance in Virginia shows similar dramatic growth. Overall attendance between 2006 and 2016 is up 48.7%. Since 2011 the figure is us 32.3%.

Nationally, libraries reported a 68% increase in program attendance between 2006 and 2016. Between 2011 and 2016, the increase was 26.9%.

Programming for various age groups has evolved over the past decade. Offerings for young adult and adult users has grown. This is true at the national, Commonwealth, and local level.

Public Computing

The number of public internet capable computing terminals has steadily increased in most libraries. For the most part, that has corresponded to an increase in the number of use sessions. Recently the use of library provided terminals as the primary means of access to the internet or other digital resources has been supplemented with library users accessing the library's Wi-Fi network with their own devices in some library systems.   As with circulation, this proliferation of means by which information can be accessed has complicated analysis of service use. A fuller understanding of the extent to which libraries are providing access to information needs to consider a wider array of measures.

In Pittsylvania libraries:
The number of terminals has increased to a high point to 46 devices in 2016.

Computer uses peaked in 2015 at 91,417. The 2016 figure was 76,175 uses.

Wi-Fi sessions became a tracked measure in 2014. Use is declining from a 2015 high of over 91,000 sessions to a 2016 figure of 76,175. Access to broad band internet services in Pittsylvania County is very limited, and the library serves as the only access to computers and high-speed internet form many residents. For this a greater number of desktop computers or access to laptops should be considered for Pittsylvania libraries.

Virginia libraries report:
Internet use peaked in 2012. 2016 shows a rebound from an 8-year low in 2015. Internet use is up in aggregate 6.9% since the year of first report (2006) but down 11.4% since 2011.

Wi-Fi sessions are up dramatically since the year records started being tracked (2014), almost doubling.

Measures for all United States Libraries show increases in the number of terminals, but decreases in the number of terminal uses, and increases in the number of Wi-Fi sessions.

Collections

The largest philosophical changes for many libraries in the past 12 years include the inclusion of non-collection space in their facilities; shifts in the form of the physical collection; and inclusion of more digital or e- materials.

In Pittsylvania libraries, print collections remain the largest component of the physical collections. Print collections have increased by 14% since 2006, with a slight dip in 2014.

The balance of the collection is shifting from almost exclusively print to a blend of print, audio and video. The book collection has been reduced from 92% to 88% of the total.

Audio collections grew significantly from 2006 to 2010. It appears there was a large purge of audio materials in 2011 and 2015. Physical audio collections are almost 40% smaller than the high in 2014. Audio has seen a significant move toward the downloadable format. It has emerged as the preferred technology for many.

Video collections have continued to grow since 2006 but the rate of increase has slowed. Video has grown by 58% since 2006.

In Virginia, those broad trends are similar: Print collections remain the largest component of the physical collections. The balance of the collection is shifting from almost exclusively print to a blend of print, audio and video. The book collection has been reduced from 93% to 88% of the total. Print collections have been reduced by 7% since 2016 with most of this occurring since the 2009 high water mark. Collections have been reduced 8.7% since 2009.

Collections per capita are more dramatic with the reduction in holdings combining with an increase in population producing a 12.6% decline in books per capita since 2011.

Audio collections have grown since 2000 but the rate of growth slowed and has reversed since 2011. Collections are 18% smaller than in 2011. Audio as seen a significant move toward the downloadable format. It has emerged as the preferred technology for many.

Video collections have continued to grow since 2000 but the rate of increase has slowed. Video has grown by 19% since 2011 and 221% since 2000.

Nationally, there are several broad trends: Print collections remain the largest component of the physical collections. The balance of the collection is shifting from almost exclusively print to a blend of print, audio and video. The book collection has been reduced from 93% to 86% of the total. Print collections have been reduced by 3.4% since 2016 with most of this occurring since the 2009 high water mark. Collections have been reduced 7.7% since 2009.

Collections per capita are more dramatic with the reduction in holdings combining with an increase in population producing a 17.6% decline in books per capita since 2016.

Audio collections have grown since 2000 but the rate of growth slowed and has reversed since 2009. Physical audio collections are 8.7% smaller than in 2011. Audio as seen a significant move toward the downloadable format. It has emerged as the preferred technology for many.

Video collections have continued to grow since 2006 but the rate of increase has slowed. Video has grown by 17.6% since 2011 and 193% since 2006.

The physical collections are further balanced with a growing collection of various e-materials described in the section on digital collections.

As illustrated below the performance of Pittsylvania Public Libraries is keeping pace and is consistent with National and Virginia trends. The data shows that the libraries are playing a vital role in the lives of the County residents. Over half of the County residents are registered users, and attendance at library programs as increased dramatically in recent years. The libraries are providing computer and internet access to a rural community that lacks access to these technologies.

Pittsylvania Public Libraries Performance Track 2006 - 2016											
	2006	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**
Population	61,400	61,800	62,275	62,275	61,731	62,253	62,713	63,535	62,986	63,125	63,167
Borrowers	18,668	18,048	20,227	22,435	24,180	25,745	27,463	29,177	30,704	31,967	33,338
Visits	120,281	123,899	134,781	174,806	176,208	170,599	183,440	186,948	182,362	197,442	164,628
Circulation	234,013	260,959	266,429	320,549	334,228	349,523	362,344	355,815	351,896	351,051	399,904
Reference Inq	4,289	4,570	3,567	11,897	11,542	9,452	12,092	14,090	13,838	11,061	10,829
Program Attendance	6,002	6,231	5,004	5,524	5,612	5,709	5,720	9,196	12,444	19,032	16,854
# Computers	32	31	35	38	38	39	39	44	45	45	46
WiFi Use									3,167	74,445	64,056
Computer Use	14,236	18,048	20,763	26,369	31,744	46,712	70,605	80,600	80,082	91,417	76,175
Print Collection	107,208	108,473	112,148	117,731	120,782	121,436	122,615	123,119	117,472	126,156	124,718
Audio Collection	4,322	4,491	4,559	4,687	4,694	2,869	2,726	5,532	5,126	3,885	3,834
Video Collection	5,261	5,821	7,022	9,469	10,526	11,019	11,547	10,910	11,535	11,870	12,540

Comparisons to Peer Institutions and Similar Communities

In order for county governments to be competitive with other locations in attracting and retaining residents and businesses, the investments in facilities, infrastructure, and amenities need to meet or exceed what is available in other localities. Libraries are a critical component of the facilities, amenities, and resources offered in a community, and investment in these facilities help to attract residents and businesses, improves employment levels, and enhances the education and culture of a community. The following analysis illustrates how Pittsylvania County compares to other similar sizes localities in Virginia.

	CAMPBELL COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	FAUQUIER COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	FRANKLIN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	WASHINGTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY	YORK COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
CITY	Rustburg	Warrenton	Rocky Mount	Chatham	Abingdon	Yorktown
LAND AREA (sq. mi.)	507	651	544	978	762	215
SERVICE AREA POPULATION	56,136	66,573	56,574	63,167	55,207	66,955
CENTRAL LIBRARIES	1	1	1	1	1	1
BRANCH LIBRARIES	3	2	1	4	4	1
TOTAL FACILITY SQUARE FOOTAGE	39,320	29,800	37,100	25,375	28,496	44,200
BOOKMOBILES	0	0	1	1	0	0
MLS LIBRARIAN STAFF	5	11	2	1	7	5
LIBRARIAN STAFF	6	11	8	1	7	5
OTHER STAFF	25	23	15	21	21	27
TOTAL STAFF	31	34	23	22	28	32
TOTAL REVENUE	$1,186,898	$2,351,359	$1,376,261	$1,258,088	$1,766,495	$2,971,024
PRINT MATERIALS	145,862	190,466	131,693	124,718	118,256	134,976
EBOOKS	211,764	9,738	8,295	218,482	51,503	4,359
AUDIO MATERIALS	2,876	14,136	3,030	3,834	8,236	10,185
AUDIO DOWNLOADS	37,590	10,780	4,065	320,015	12,155	6,901
VIDEO MATERIALS	2,914	10,162	7,716	12,540	9,913	14,667
VIDEO DOWNLOADS	13,382	109	0	26,590	0	0
PRINT SERIALS	125	303	297	151	376	30
HOURS	9,724	8,892	5,760	9,776	10,556	6,552
VISITS	198,915	259,773	213,900	164,628	154,275	460,564
REFERENCES	13,260	53,986	30,567	10,892	9,905	46,169
USERS	19,605	41,296	30,340	33,338	19,970	64,436
TOTAL CIRCULATION	214,986	452,918	241,137	399,904	402,812	539,353
KIDS CIRCULATION	70,866	195,331	76,842	78,112	93,775	237,588
ELECTRONIC CIRCULATION	49,754	43,460	13,552	10,430	15,382	53,257
PHYSICAL ITEM CIRCULATION	165,232	409,458	227,585	389,474	387,430	486,096
TOTAL CIRCULATION & RETRIEVALS	215,104	571,380	241,137	438,568	440,118	604,069
TOTAL PROGRAMS	511	969	661	1,587	923	871
KIDS PROGRAMS	354	591	520	464	653	504
YA PROGRAMS	22	53	26	72	240	8
PROGRAM AUDIENCE	12,233	15,536	16,421	16,854	16,074	21,772
KIDS PROGRAM AUDIENCE	9,318	12,482	8,327	5,368	5,816	15,201
YA PROGRAM AUDIENCE	430	490	147	601	2,426	196
COMPUTERS	24	63	61	46	42	52
COMPUTER USES	33,535	29,445	25,337	76,175	27,409	44,505

Land Area

In comparing the statistics indicated above, it is important to note that while the population of Pittsylvania County is similar to the other localities, the land area of the County is significantly larger. The large land area relative to the total population confirms that many areas of the County are very rural and sparsely populated. These areas of the County are remote and lack access to the facilities, technology, and infrastructure offered in other areas of the County, including library services. The size of the County results in a need for many residents to drive greater distances to access resources

Total System Square Footage

The Pittsylvania Library System has a total of 25,375 square feet in five locations. This square footage equals .4 square feet per capita compared to an average of .6 square feet per capita provided in the other localities. At a minimum, the Library of Virginia "Planning for Library Excellence: Standards for Virginia Public Libraries" recommends .6 square feet per capita for populations ranging from 25,000 to 100,000. This comparison indicates that the availability of library space to the residents of Pittsylvania County is significantly undersized. Additional square footage and additional facilities should be provided to compensate for this deficit.

Staff

A correlation between facility square footage and staffing is also evident. The number of library staff in Pittsylvania County is also significantly smaller than other localities of similar size. If additional square footage and facilities are added to be more consistent with State standards and similarly sized communities, additional staff will be required.

Funding

Funding for library services in Pittsylvania County is also on the lower end of what is expected and provided in other similarly sized communities. The average total library revenue for communities with similar population is $1,930,000 annually. The Pittsylvania County Library System's total library revenue is approximately $1,258,000 annually.

Circulation and Programs

Despite the lack of facilities and resources, the Pittsylvania County Library System does a remarkable job of providing services and programs to the community. The total circulation of materials is significantly higher than similar communities, and program attendance is consistent with communities with larger facilities and greater resources. Computer usage in Pittsylvania County is more than double the average for similar communities. All of these factors illustrate that library services and facilities are essential to the lives of Pittsylvania County residents.

Comparison to Peer Libraries

The needs of modern libraries have changed dramatically in recent years. Although the demand for print material may be declining in the future, the demand for technology, meeting space, innovations centers, study areas, and other facilities have expanded, making libraries cultural centers for their communities. The following comparison shows how the proposed branches for Dan River, Staunton River, and Banister compare to the existing Chatham Branch Library and similar recently built branches in Virginia.

Category / Location	PCPL System — Pittsylvania County	Dan River Proposed — Dan River District	Staunton Proposed — Staunton District	Bannister Proposed — Bannister District	Express Library	Chatham Branch Library — Pittsylvania County	Prince George Appomattox Regional Library System — Prince George	Charles City County Heritage Public Library System — Charles City County	Williamson Road Library City of Roanoke Public Libraries — City of Roanoke
County Population	61,258					61,258	37,809	7,004	99,837
Town Population		9,272	8,518	8,670			37,809	7,004	3,561
County Median Income	$43,087					$43,087	$64,805	$54,167	$39,530
Town HH Median		$42,100	$38,900	$38,200			$64,805	$54,167	$35,800
Total System Revenue	$1,258,088					$1,258,088	$2,006,765	$380,192	$4,423,506
Year Built						1989	2011	2019	2018
Hours annually	9,776					1,404	2,704	2,080	2,600
Visits*	164,628					164,628	220,992	22,039	95,000
Users	33,338					33,338	12,317	11,998	11,764
Total Circulation*	399,904					399,904	322,413	49,249	544,301
MLIS Librarian Staff*	1					1	1	1	1
Other Staff*	21					9 inc. system	5	4	3
Library Size -GSF	25,375					7,600	12,000	8,200	10,384
Items in collection	760,000					41,059	31,671	21,007	34,593
SF adult services		2,729	2,698	2,698	1,281	2,185	2,986	1,990	2,303
SF youth services		1,759	1,759	1,759	821	875	2,565	1,125	1,336
SF YA services		429	429	429	289	128	575	430	637
SF Community room		1,000	875	750	0	225	1,237	475	1,205
SF Children's program		500	400	400	400	0	0	0	0
Other program spaces		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SF quiet reading room		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	376
4 to 6 person study		1	1	1	1	0	1	1	2
2 person study rooms		2	2	2	0	0	0	0	1
Adult computers		10	10	10	4	16	12	6	12
YA computers		4	4	4	2	0	3	3	6
Children's computers		2	2	2	2	0	4	2	7
Adulting Seating		28	28	28	9	28	40	16	26
YA Seating		12	12	12	3	0	8	8	11
Children's seating		20	20	20	5	16	28	10	21
SF Café		300	250	250	0	0	410	0	0
SF Staff areas		1,534	1,534	1,534	744	954	554	775	663

This comparison illustrates the need for additional square footage to accommodate adequate community meeting space, youth programming space, study and tutoring rooms, and traditional library spaces suitable for all ages. The size of the proposed libraries is consistent with the size and facility components seen in similar modern libraries recently built in Virginia.

Modern Library Trends

What's in a 21st Century Library?

Trends in Modern Library Design

People

Libraries are about people and connections. Providing places and spaces for people to interact with each other and to find information, education, entertainment, or social interaction is the vital role of good library design. In the Modern Library, these places and connections include access to books and literature, but they often involve access to computers, technology, job searches, early literacy programs, children's activities, meeting space, tutoring space, maker spaces, cultural events, concerts, and a number of other activities that enrich our society. Library buildings need to provide the opportunities to make those connections in our society, and provide the structure for library staff to deliver services to the community in a welcoming, attractive, safe and efficient environment.

Collaborative Service Model

Linking people to people and information is the mission of the Collaborative Service Model in library design and operations. Whether connecting staff, outside experts, or fellow citizens, these links focus on exchanging ideas, interaction, creation,

collaboration, recreation, and inspiration. This collaborative service model can be fostered by good design. Good library design shapes patron behavior. Open, engaging, and comfortable buildings with connections to the surrounding neighborhoods foster a higher level of participation and user satisfaction.

A good library experience is dependent on both the services available and the architectural design of the spaces.

The design needs to accommodate and engage the patrons and staff in collaboration with each other and the programs and services offered by the library. The design and location of staff work areas, information stations, technology, active zones, quiet zones, study areas, program spaces, and meeting rooms can encourage this interaction and exchange of information.

Evolving Public Service Models focus on the end result of the library visit, the added value. The staff/patron interaction becomes less transactional and more collaborative, a hip to hip interaction rather than face to face across a counter. The quality of the visit most often depends on the end experience: "I was informed", "I was entertained", "I was inspired" rather than "sure… I found a book." To support this evolution, libraries may implement the concept of the "roving librarians" who will assist library users from within the collections rather than from behind a service desk. These side-by-side interactions are supported by technologies that include portable tablet PCs, Vocera® communication systems and widely dispersed OPACs. Traditional service desks may be replaced by a smaller "start here" desks supplemented by technology, multi-media, and remote staff outposts where staff can assist users or perform minor administrative tasks. New service point designs are mobile and go where they are needed as use patterns change. Staff is actively engaged and the architecture reflects this level of service.

Community Living Room

People want a place to go that isn't home or work (Oldenburg "The Great Good Place") – the library has become this 'third place' by offering a variety of events and a place to generally gather and interact. Some of the amenities that reinforce this idea are cafés, "Friends of the Library" stores, and quiet reading rooms that can be turned into places for events in a non-traditional meeting setting, complete with fireplaces, public art, and comfortable seating. Seating and furniture is designed to be comfortable and inviting, but movable and flexible so that it can accommodate quiet individual reading or group collaboration. To meet this demand the Library must be inviting, it must offer different experiences, and it must 'belong' to the users. The Library is the community living room.

Active Places: These are places where group interaction is possible and encouraged. These spaces need to be flexible and adaptable to accommodate a range of activities and group sizes. The shift toward content creation, media labs, maker places, or hacker spaces adds a dynamic beyond the traditional library. These types of activities need separate spaces for specific uses to enhance the experience and avoid disruptions to other library services.

Quiet Places: Getting away is important, too. Multiple user groups, including Young Adults, have identified one of their primary purposes for going to the library is to escape the distractions found elsewhere. They can focus and undertake more complex work. Focus is the key to a successful library experience.

Helpful Places: Libraries become even more important during economically challenging times. People use the library for job searches, training, learning, and entertainment. For some people that have been forced out of the traditional job market, the library has become their business center, entertainment, and escape from home. Libraries are the one place people and families can go for all of these activities without spending money.

Multi-functional Spaces: Because the library is serving a greater role, the need for multi-functional spaces is growing. Rooms and spaces must be versatile enough to transform. Whether from a meeting space, to computer instruction area, to gaming or anime event, features like sliding doors/partitions and mobile furniture make possible a wider range of uses over a greater period of time. No space can sit empty half of the day. Each square foot needs to earn its keep on a daily basis.

Toolbox for Modern Life

We look to libraries to help us in all aspects of life. They may serve as a quiet refuge, an escape from the realities of the day, a place to focus and concentrate, or a place to let loose and engage our neighbors in serious work, recreation, or simple spontaneous dialog. The library depends on its staff, collections, activity zones, and quiet places to meet the wide range of expectations and needs of the community. To be successful, the library needs to be different things to different people on different visits.

Retail behaviors and the Library as a store:

Successful retailers have demonstrated that along with a product, customers expect convenient and knowledgeable service, and appreciate an enjoyable, self-directed shopping experience. Borrowing from successful retail experiences (Underhill, "Why We Buy"), libraries are updating and refining collections and media formats, displaying collections to better merchandise their offerings and encouraging a more interactive experience. Aisle width, lower stack height, shelf geometry all contribute to a customer's ability to happen upon something interesting. Interspersing seating, display, and collections to create topical neighborhoods promotes ease and intensity of use. Providing access to popular materials in an easily accessible and user friendly display promotes circulation of materials and patron satisfaction.

Retail Design in Libraries

- Flexible display units
- Clear, attractive wayfinding and signage
- Unobstructed views to benefit both patrons and staff (lower shelving height)
- Comfortable seating
- Upscale retail-like finishes and furniture
- Use of pattern, color and texture to direct movement
- Multi-media displays
- Integrated lighting for interior and exterior
- Drive through service
- After-hours pick-up lockers
- Intuitive foot and vehicular traffic flow
- Attractive outdoor public spaces

Smart Work Place

Buildings need to support the staff in their efforts to serve the public. This begins with service points and extends through self-serve venues to the staff work spaces. Technology can support staff in their efforts, but at some point there is no substitute for carefully organized flexible space to support material handling, off-desk activities, and program development. Adequate space, with the core adjacencies and infrastructure, are the frame work upon which the daily routines hinge.

While a library needs to meet different criteria for different patrons, it is still—at its core—a building that needs to function well and efficiently for its staff and users. The design of a successful library must include:

Function and Flow: If a library does not function and flow for the users and staff, it is not worth building. Definition and organization of collections, shelving layout, furniture placement, and an intuitive flow for staff work areas are imperative to a smooth operation.

Durability: Library spaces need to be beautiful, but they also need to last. Consideration must be given to not only how the finishes look, but how durable they are and how easy they are to maintain—an interesting light fixture only adds to the quality of the facility if the light bulbs can easily be changed. We create attractive and inspiring buildings, but we also focus on simple proven building techniques and materials that are cost effective and minimize building maintenance long term.

Observation and Security: With any public building comes the concern of safety and security. The location of the circulation, reference, and information desks must provide both a clear view of the floor for the staff, and be easy for the patron to find. Observation and security can be handled in a number of ways depending on the approach desired by the County, the level of anticipated staffing, and the need for separation of spaces. Each solution is unique to the individual library and the community, and we look forward to developing an approach that is appropriate to Pittsylvania County and the Library.

Flexibility and Adaptability: To prepare the library for the inevitable evolution of library services, the building needs to be adaptable.

Customer Service: Customer service in tomorrow's library relies heavily on providing patrons quick and convenient access to information, popular materials, programs, training, technology, people, and services in a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. The type of customer service provided must relate to a wide array of needs, abilities, personalities, and ages. These demands often place an increasing burden on a shrinking number of library staff.

Good customer service comes in different forms depending on the needs of the patron and the type of service. It can mean providing convenient and quick face to face assistance from library staff. It can also mean providing enough computer resources or digital media to accommodate all patrons without waiting. It can mean providing drive through service for easy access. It can mean providing self-check stations in the children's area and near the circulation desk.

Technology

We all know that technology is expanding at an exponential rate. Modern libraries need to provide access to that technology for patrons, and the technology needs to be integrated, adaptable, and simple to streamline distribution of information and work flow for the staff. The technology considered at the beginning of a library design may be obsolete by the time the library opens; therefore, buildings and technology must be easily adaptable and replaceable.

Measures such as increased electrical capacity, frequent floor and wall outlets, wire raceways and conduits, wireless technology, and portable technology devices should be considered in the design.

Technology Needs for Patrons and Staff

- Portable laptops and tablets
- Sufficient outlets throughout the space for charging
- Self-check stations
- RFID technology
- Smartboards and interactive displays
- Interactive flat panel OPAC
- Mediascapes
- AV and multi-media technology
- Maker spaces
- STEAM Labs

Acoustics

With the variety of activities that occur in a modern library, there are no longer areas where absolute silence is required or even desired most of the time. There are times and places in a library, however, where quiet space is desired. Creating active zones and quiet zones in a library is critical to good design. Separating distinct areas and providing sound absorbing materials can achieve this goal. We have worked closely with acoustical engineers to design materials and finishes to achieve the optimal sound levels for a particular space and use. We have also designed sound isolating walls around rooms that significantly reduce or eliminate sound transmission between spaces. We will review acoustic considerations with the library staff and determine needs for the future facilities.

Interior Design

The design of the interior space is most frequently associated with the quality and functionality of the building. Those elements that people touch, feel, and use become their criteria for measuring a building's success. It is our belief that architecture and interior design are extensions of each other—with the design originating on the inside and working its way out to and through the exterior. We like to design libraries with warm, natural, and inviting finishes that are durable and timeless so that they can be enjoyed by patrons for many years.

Age Appropriate Spaces

Seniors, Adults, Teens, and Children all have different needs and expectations for library services and the environments in which they interact. Seniors will not be comfortable in the atmosphere that a Teen would thrive in. Environments for each age group need to incorporate the furniture, lighting, finishes, technology, and materials that are attractive and inviting to that group. Uniquely designed and defined areas should be created to respond to those needs. Senior areas may be more quiet and subdued with comfortable seating. Teen areas may be more active with exciting finishes, lighting, and technology, along with group "hang-out" furniture. Areas for Children may be acoustically separated, and furniture should be low, movable, and often interactive. The overall design of spaces for children should engage and challenge young learning and interaction. Open areas should be created for play and story time activities. Creating these individually appropriate environments can be accomplished while still focusing on a cohesive interior design aesthetic for the building.

Evaluations of Location and Site Selections

Where should a new library go?

Evaluation of Locations and Site Selection

Building Sites

When selecting potential building sites for a new library, several factors should be considered including access, visibility, infrastructure, and site conditions.

Build Where They Will Come

Future library construction should be built in areas where people will make the most use of the library. Libraries should have access to major transportation routes which will provide convenient access to the majority of residents in the district. Major transportation routes in Pittsylvania County include Rts. 29, 40, 57, and 58. The libraries should also be located near concentrations of population, commercial centers, government buildings, or other institutional buildings. These types of locations will allow residents to visit the library while conducting other business, running errands, or traveling to or from work and home. Visibility is also important in determining the best location for a library. Just like retail businesses, libraries should be located in prominent locations where visibility will attract customers to visit.

Infrastructure

Libraries and other public buildings need proper infrastructure to operate. Adequate water service should be achieved by County water supply if available. Well water may be used if ground water quality is acceptable. However, if a fire sprinkler system is required, wells, fire pumps, and water storage tanks become very expensive. As long as the facility is less that 12,000 square feet and the occupancy of the building is less than 300 people, a fire sprinkler system should not be required.

Sanitary sewer systems would also ideally be provided by a County system; however, in rural sites a septic system may be required. If County sewer systems are not available, potential sites should be tested to see if the soils "perk" for a septic system.

Adequate power needs to be available at any proposed sites. Most likely, a site suitable for access and visibility will also have adequate power. Systems in commercial and institutional buildings often require 3-phase power, so the capacity of the existing power infrastructure should be evaluated.

In Pittsylvania County, access to the internet is perhaps the most critical and difficult infrastructure to achieve. Most areas in the County do not have access to broadband high speed internet. In discussions with County officials and staff, sites around the schools in the County are known to have high speed internet, and these sites may be good locations for a library. Any proposed library site must have access to high speed internet.

Site Conditions

Several other site conditions should be considered when looking for potential library sites. The slope of the land is an important factor. Sites should not be too steep or too flat. Steeps sites are more expensive to build on and difficult to incorporate parking and handicapped accessibility. Sites that are too flat do not drain adequately, and more elaborate foundations and drainage systems may be required.

Soil conditions are also important in building construction. Geotechnical tests should be conducted when considering appropriate building sites for a new library. Soils that contain a high quantity of organic materials, or shrink/swell clay are not suitable to build on, and these soils would need to be removed if located within the area of the building foundations. Removal of unsuitable soils can be expensive or lead to more complicated foundation designs.

The site size for a 12,000 square foot library should be approximately 3 acres to allow adequate space for the building, parking, and some green space. A larger site would allow more space for green space and potential future expansion.

Adaptive Reuse Options

There may be cost effective options to reuse existing buildings for a new library. Some buildings may be well suited for library use, but others may not. The wrong building could result in expensive renovation costs and/or spaces that do not function well for a library. Buildings suitable for adaptive reuse for libraries should have the following features:

- Large open spaces with minimal columns and no bearing walls

- Floors designed to carry a minimum of 150 lbs/sf

- High ceilings and structural clearance

- Large exterior window openings to bring in natural light (cutting in windows at a later time could be expensive)

- Adequate utilities and infrastructure- water, sewer, power, internet, etc.

- Adequate parking

- Good access and visibility

- No hazardous materials or conditions

- Watertight, sound conditions and no structural deficiencies

Dan River

Sites suggested for the Dan River area included the following:

- Old Dan River Middle School site

- Old Blairs School

- Near the Hatcher Center

The initial sites that seem to have the most potential are those that are located near the Kentuck schools. These sites have good visibility and access, are near population centers, convenient to many residents, and have access to internet and infrastructure.

Potential Dan River Site: Old Middle School

Potential Dan River Site: Near Kentuck Elementary

Banister

Sites suggested for the Banister District include the following:

- Near the Riceville Center
- Elkhorn Lake
- Near Renan Fire Station
- Near Mt. Airy Elementary School
- Near Java Post Office

The Banister District is very spread out and sparsely populated. The remote areas of this district do not have population centers or commercial areas. Of the sites suggested, the area around Mt. Airy Elementary School seems to have the most potential. It has access to internet and infrastructure, and it is on the well-traveled Route 40.

Potential Banister Site: Mt. Airy Elementary

Staunton River

Sites suggested for the Staunton River District include the following:

- Town of Hurt
- Old shopping center or bank
- Near the elementary school
- Prospect Road
- Wayside Park

Potential Staunton Site: Wayside Park

Potential Staunton Site: Near Old Shopping Center

Potential Staunton Site: John L. Hurt Elementary

Several of these sites have potential for a new library or adaptive reuse. Further investigation would be needed to determine the suitability and availability of these sites.

Existing Branch Library Recommendations

How to Upgrade Your Existing Libraries
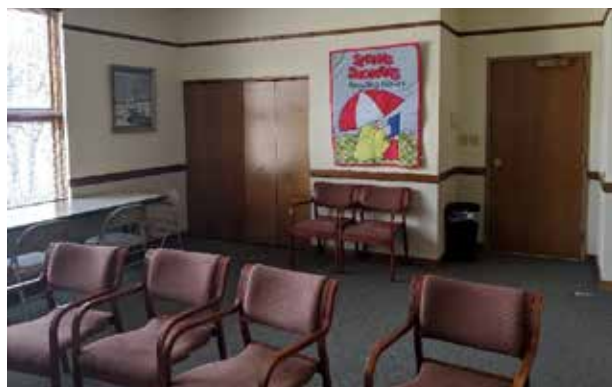
Existing Library Branch Recommendations

Enteros Design visited the Chatham Branch, the Mt. Hermon Branch, the History Research Center and Library, and the Gretna Branch Library during the data gathering visit. Overall, the libraries are in good condition, but the spaces in the older branches are very tight and overcrowded. The Mt. Hermon Branch is relatively new, and spaces are bright and open feeling with lower shelving and adequate clearances. The following information summarizes some observations about these branches.

Shelving and Furniture

Shelving in the older branches is relatively high with most of the shelving at 84" tall, and aisle widths are relatively narrow. The high shelving and narrow aisles gives the space a closed in crowded feel, and visibility in the space is limited. New and renovated library spaces should strive to have shelving in adult areas no higher that 66" tall in open floor place, and children's shelving should be no taller than 48".

Seating

Seating in the existing libraries is limited, and most of the seating consists of hard task-oriented seating and tables. The seating is older and shows signs of wear. New seating should be considered for renovations, and more comfortable lounge seating is needed in the branches.

Program and Meeting Spaces

The program and meeting room space in the libraries is limited to one medium sized community meeting room for each branch. This meeting room also serves as the children's program room. In many of the branches the size of the meeting room is not adequate for larger community events. Future libraries and renovations should consider having a larger community meeting room and a separate flexible-use program room which could be used for children's activities, STEAM activities, or maker space programs. If designed properly, this room could accommodate a variety of activities for all age groups.

Staff Work Areas

The staff workrooms and offices in the libraries are too small to efficiently accommodate the staff work flow, and the spaces are overcrowded with storage materials. This problem is especially apparent in the Chatham branch where the system administration staff is combined with the branch staff in a small work area. Additional storage and staff space is needed in the libraries. If the administrative staff in the Chatham branch were moved to a larger staff area, perhaps in another building, the overcrowding of the existing staff space could be alleviated.

Gretna Branch Library

The Gretna Branch Library suffers from all of the general issues found in the other branches as described above. This library is scheduled for renovation in the near future. The existing adult collections will be moved to an additional space in the building which was recently vacated by Danville Community College. The additional space will double the size of the existing library. Relocating the adult collection will alleviate the over crowded feel in the children's collection. As part of the renovation, consideration should be given to reducing the shelving height and adding more comfortable seating.

The existing meeting space will be converted to a flexible program room which will serve most of the children's programs. This space could be renovated to serve as a flexible program space for multiple age groups to accommodate STEAM and maker space activities.

A larger meeting room will be constructed in the new space. Consideration should be given to constructing the larger meeting room in the rear of the space rather than near the front entrance. Leaving the space near the front entrance more open will allow room for a more comfortable and inviting seating area which could create a café or bookstore atmosphere.

The circulation desk and staff workroom will need to be reconfigured to provide better visibility of the front entrance and new adult area. The renovation should consider some modifications to the building entrance and restroom doors to make the space more open. Reconfiguration should focus on avoiding congestion at the circulation desk and make the space more appealing.

The renovation plans include converting an existing window in the children's area to a door to provide access to a new outdoor reading garden and activity space. This concept will create a more open environment, expand the available program space, and better connect the building to the outdoors. Future libraries and renovations should all explore these types of opportunities to create outdoor programming space.

Other renovation considerations for Gretna should include updated interior finishes, improvements to ceiling heights and finishes, and updated lighting. The interior aesthetic should create a more modern appearance with areas of wall color, ceiling finish, and floor finishes to help define space. Additional window openings to the exterior would bring in natural lighting and provide a more open and uplifting environment.

Cost Estimates

How Much It May Cost

Cost Estimates

Pittsylvania County Library System Library Expansion Feasibility Study			

New Construction Costs: Full Size Branch			
	SF	$ Lower	$ Higher
Building Area	11,800		
Building and Site $/SF		300	350

Subtotal Building and Site Cost Range		$3,540,000	$4,130,000

Other Costs			
Furniture and equipment		$236,000	$295,000
Audio Visual and Technology		$59,000	$118,000
Opening Day Collection		$50,000	$75,000
A/E Fees		$339,840	$398,250
Testing		$12,000	$20,000
Permits		$70,800	$82,600
Utilites Fees		$8,000	$15,000

Total Other Costs		$775,640	$1,003,850

Total Construction Budget		$4,315,640	$5,133,850

Pittsylvania County Library System
Library Expansion Feasibility Study

Adaptive Reuse Construction Costs: Full Size Branch

	SF	$ Lower	$ Higher
Building Area	11,800		
Building and Site $/SF		175	275
Subtotal Building and Site Cost Range		**$2,065,000**	**$3,245,000**

Other Costs

Furniture and equipment		$236,000	$295,000
Audio Visual and Technology		$59,000	$118,000
Opening Day Collection		$50,000	$75,000
A/E Fees		$207,090	$318,600
Testing		$10,000	$15,000
Permits		$41,300	$64,900
Utilites Fees		$5,000	$8,000
Total Other Costs		**$608,390**	**$894,500**
Total Construction Budget		**$2,673,390**	**$4,139,500**

Pittsylvania County Library System
Library Expansion Feasibility Study

New Construction Costs: Express Branch

	SF	$ Lower	$ Higher
Building Area	4,200		
Building and Site $/SF		350	375
Subtotal Building and Site Cost Range		**$1,470,000**	**$1,575,000**

Other Costs

		$ Lower	$ Higher
Furniture and equipment		$84,000	$105,000
Audio Visual and Technology		$21,000	$42,000
Opening Day Collection		$25,000	$35,000
A/E Fees		$139,860	$151,200
Testing		$12,000	$15,000
Permits		$29,400	$31,500
Utilites Fees		$8,000	$15,000
Total Other Costs		**$319,260**	**$394,700**
Total Construction Budget		**$1,789,260**	**$1,969,700**

Adaptive Reuse Construction Costs: Express Branch

	SF	$ Lower	$ Higher
Building Area	4,200		
Building and Site $/SF		175	225
Subtotal Building and Site Cost Range		**$735,000**	**$945,000**

Other Costs

		$ Lower	$ Higher
Furniture and equipment		$84,000	$105,000
Audio Visual and Technology		$21,000	$42,000
Opening Day Collection		$25,000	$35,000
A/E Fees		$73,710	$94,500
Testing		$5,000	$10,000
Permits		$14,700	$18,900
Utilites Fees		$5,000	$8,000
Total Other Costs		**$228,410**	**$313,400**
Total Construction Budget		**$963,410**	**$1,258,400**