

## THE MAIN LIBRARY

The Main Library is comprised of two buildings, the historic South Building, rapidly approaching 100 years in age, and the newer North Building that was opened in 1969 and will soon be 35 years old. The combined size of the two structures is 167,000 SF. The two buildings are **very** different in architectural style and character.

The South Building, while rich in its design as were so many buildings of that era, has not been adequately maintained, and much of the space has not been used since the radio station was moved out a few years ago. In addition, the central core of stacks that are not handicap accessible takes up a good part of the assignable floor space.

Improvements to the two buildings that have been completed within the past two years include a new gallery in the South Building, on the main level, and the Centennial Meeting Room on the lower level of the North Building. In addition, the radio tower has been removed from the lawn of the South Building.

These changes, while offering some programmatic improvements (and aesthetically improving the appearance of the lawn) have not increased the size of the complex.

### Main Library Collections

For purposes of meeting the Commonwealth standard of 2.5 items per capita the Main Library collection size totals 336,374, a figure that includes those items housed in the stack floors.<sup>2</sup> The collections include:

- 23,677 reference volumes
- 21,176 Kentucky history items
- 182,478 adult non-fiction volumes
- 40,316 adult fiction volumes
- 51,946 children's items.

The collections also include over 50,000 government documents and 849 periodical subscriptions. The Talking Books collection totals nearly 40,000 titles.

### Usage of the Main Library

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<sup>2</sup> When computing the number of "books per capita" for purposes of meeting the standards of the Commonwealth, Talking Books, government documents, and periodicals are not included.

Just as usage of the branch libraries has been on the increase over the past four years, so has Main Library usage. To wit:

- Circulation – gain of 18.1 percent
- Door count – rise of 23.2 percent
- Customer registrations – increase of 88.9 percent
- Information requests – up 25.0 percent.

## Main Library Options

The Design Charette in August explored three options. They were:

- Option 1 - Major renovation of existing complex with modest space increase
- Option 2 - Major renovation of historic South Building, replacement of North Building with new structure
- Option 3 - All new facility.

**Option 1** would result in a total size of 254,100 SF, which is approximately 43,000 SF less than the projected 20-year needs. The 87,000 SF of additional space is achieved as follows:

- New Auditorium and Lobby on the first level
- New third floor on the North Building (1969 design allowed for a one-level expansion)
- Capturing the perimeter space on the main level of the North Building by pushing the glass line to the edge of the structure.

The primary reason for the space shortfall in this option is that it removes the central core of stacks in the South Building, and there is not sufficient land on the site to expand horizontally more than the charette scheme indicates.

**Option 2** would result in a total of 314,815 SF, which is about 18,000 SF larger than the projected needs. This option endeavors to make better use of the South Building from a service and staff efficiency standpoint, which results in there being some space that has no logical use at this time. In addition, the central core stack space is replaced in the new North Building.

**Option 3**, an all-new facility, is the amount of square footage identified as meeting the 20-year needs of a Main Library for Greater Louisville, 297,430 SF. During the charette process the consultants demonstrated that a new building could be located at the intersection of Third Street and Broadway provided the North Building was demolished. The South Building would remain and its usage would be for non-Library functions.

For the third option a series of Main Library spreadsheets were developed, and these are in the appendices to this report.

The LFPL may also want to entertain opportunities for partnering with others with regard to Option 3.

### **Main Library Programmatic and Service Improvements**

If Option 3 is implemented the residents of Greater Louisville will realize the following major programmatic and service improvements in the Main Library.

<i>Programmatic/Service Element</i>	<i>Current Conditions</i>	<i>Option 3</i>
Collections	336,374	563,000
Periodical Subscriptions	875	1,828
Customer Seats	308	440
Meeting Room Seats	130	1,020

A chart on the next page summarizes the Option 3 capacities, etc. according to the units that would be most likely housed in a Main Library facility.

### **CONCEPTUAL PLANS**

The appendices include conceptual stacking plans and floor blocking plans for each one of the three Main Library options. Also included are general planning concepts for new and/or renovated facilities.