



Transforming Libraries into Technology Hubs: Redefining Spaces

In today's fast-paced technological landscape, libraries (once primarily associated with stacks of books) are evolving into dynamic hubs for education, self-improvement, and entrepreneurship. Let's explore how your library can be re-envisioned as an invaluable community resource, offering technology training, fostering job preparedness, and inviting sustained visitation from all members of your community.



Study Rooms & Entrepreneurial Spaces

Libraries traditionally boast an abundance of books but may lack diverse spaces for various activities. More versatile spaces can be created by incorporating study rooms and small collaboration spaces. This not only enhances traditional uses like tutoring and private study, but also opens doors for in-house meetings, telecommuting, and even telehealth consultations.

How to Implement

Space Optimization

Reduce stacks, repurpose underutilized areas, and consider removing permanent walls or using temporary walls to create flexible spaces. To reduce stacks, weed out books that haven't circulated in the last three years.

Operational Efficiency

Utilize reservation systems for these spaces, ensuring they are easily accessible and secure. Determine whether spaces should always be locked or reserved through the front desk.





Makerspaces

There is a growing demand for the incorporation of makerspaces. Commonly equipped with laser cutters, 3D printers, sewing machines, and crafting tools, makerspaces should be designed for flexibility, using equipment on wheels for easy storage when not in use. By introducing these spaces and associated training classes, you can drive traffic to your library, encouraging individuals of all ages to come together to learn, collaborate, and unleash their creativity. This mobility also allows for transitional space use, as an extra meeting room, for example.



Considerations

Infrastructure

Explore the impact of makerspaces on existing infrastructure, including upgrades in equipment, computers, and lighting. Also make sure to assess the electrical load requirements.

Positioning

Strategic placement in visible areas, high circulation spots, and after-hours areas can boost accessibility, as well as popularity, of your programming.



Technology Integration

From 3D printing and software development to digital content creation and virtual reality, cutting-edge technologies in library spaces are highly desired. For your library to stay relevant and future-focused, high-speed internet and easy connectivity points for wireless devices must be provided. Offering both wired and wireless options throughout provides maximum flexibility for building users.



Traditionally regarded as community hubs, libraries have evolved into centers where various groups can access advanced technologies, such as large format displays for meetings and training sessions. In response to contemporary expectations, these spaces should be equipped with video teleconferencing capabilities, a feature increasingly anticipated by those booking these facilities. The goal is to design integrated solutions that prioritize flexibility, ensuring seamless accommodation of both small and large events. Above all, user-friendly technologies are crucial for widespread acceptance and adoption.



The Library Studio at Becker Morgan Group comprises a multidisciplinary team encompassing architects, interior designers, engineers, and landscape architects. Our collective focus centers on fostering community engagement, facilitating learning opportunities, and fostering growth. With our extensive experience in building design, we specialize in enhancing user engagement and increasing visitation to your library. Our passion lies in connecting communities with knowledge and crafting inviting environments that stimulate both inspiration and collaboration.