



**LIBRARIES
FOR ALL**

Maintenance

MAINTENANCE = SUSTAINABILITY

Maintain buildings for the next generation

Some Libraries for All buildings are passing the 10-year mark since construction. All require periodic attention to sustain the improvements that Seattle voters invested in when they passed the \$196.4 million Libraries for All bond measure in 1998.

Potential Priorities:

- Regularly service and repair heating, cooling, plumbing and electrical systems so buildings are energy-efficient and comfortable for patrons
- Maintain and replace the book sorting equipment to ensure that holds are delivered quickly and efficiently
- Repair and maintain surfaces and finishes such as countertops, tables, walls, etc.
- Replace plants and landscaping equipment
- Close the gap between available city funding for major maintenance and major maintenance requirements

Our libraries are heavily used.

The Central Library hosts approximately 2 million visitors annually, and the branches see another 5 million visitors. Even the smallest branch has more than 70,000 people walk through the door each year.

COME TO A MEETING

Discuss improving Library services with City Librarian Marcellus Turner and Library Board members. Strategies for stabilizing funding also will be reviewed.

10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 7

Central Library
1000 Fourth Ave.
Level 1, Microsoft Auditorium
206-386-4636

Noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14

Beacon Hill Branch
2821 Beacon Ave. S.
206-684-4711

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18

Ballard Branch
5614 22nd Ave. N.W.
206-684-4089

PROVIDE FEEDBACK ONLINE

You are welcome to give your feedback online now! Visit www.spl.org, select “Libraries for All” and “Share Your Thoughts.”

NEXT STEPS

The Library Board will continue to receive comments from the public through the end of January. The feedback will be considered in developing a potential Library levy package for a possible Aug. 7, 2012 ballot.

STAY INFORMED

Visit www.spl.org, select “Libraries for All” and “Stay Informed.” You can also call 206-386-4636, or email libraryservicesforall@spl.org for more information.



**LIBRARIES
FOR ALL**

**A PLAN FOR THE PRESENT,
A FOUNDATION FOR
THE FUTURE**

In 1998, Seattle voters overwhelmingly supported a bold vision to renew Seattle’s aging and outdated Library buildings. The Libraries for All bond measure resulted in the world-renowned Central Library and new and renovated branch libraries in every neighborhood of the city.

Persistent economic challenges and budget cuts have put the vision of Libraries for All at risk.

BRINGING THE VISION TO LIFE

The Library has identified four essential service areas that will support the next phase of bringing the vision of Libraries for All to life.

- Keeping libraries open when patrons need them
- Providing a robust collection of books and materials
- Improving computer and online services
- Maintaining buildings for the next generation



The Seattle Public Library



**LIBRARIES
FOR ALL**

Open Hours

HOURS = ACCESS

Keep libraries open when patrons need them

Limited hours create barriers that prevent patrons of all ages and backgrounds from getting the information they need to succeed.

Potential Priorities:

- Restore Friday and/or Sunday hours at 15 branches
- Open two more branches seven days a week
- Provide consistent hours at all branches
- Restore basic in-person reference help at all libraries
- Restore Seattle Room hours (collection of Seattle history at the Central Library)
- Increase online and telephone reference help and public computer help
- Additional options could include providing extended morning and evening hours at the Central Library and at one branch in each quadrant of the city

Our libraries help prepare students for the global economy.

The 2010 Community Survey found that approximately 41% of teens aged 15-19 come to the Library to study or do homework.



**LIBRARIES
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Materials

COLLECTIONS = QUALITY

Provide a robust collection of books and materials

A reduced book budget cuts into the heart and soul of the Library. It means less depth in the collection and longer wait times for holds. Patrons should have access to a rich variety of materials in print and other formats, including e-books, digital media, DVDs, CDs and podcasts.

Potential Priorities:

- Buy more copies of popular items to reduce the wait time on holds
- Enhance electronic content such as downloadable e-books to respond to demand
- Buy more new titles annually to offer more variety in the collection
- Catalog and digitize existing local and cultural history collections to make them easier for patrons to find and use

Our libraries provide important resources that residents need.

The 2010 Community Survey found that an overwhelming 93% of respondents rated books and materials as their top priority for funding. That budget has dropped by 13% after inflation since 2009.



**LIBRARIES
FOR ALL**

Technology

TECHNOLOGY = OPPORTUNITY

Improve computer and online services

Aging computer equipment and outdated online services put patrons at a digital disadvantage in a rapidly changing world. Libraries should provide the tools patrons need to do homework, research health concerns, apply for jobs and connect to community resources.

Potential Priorities:

- Support regular replacements and upgrades for:
 - Public computers
 - Public print and copy equipment
 - Traveling computer instruction labs
- Maintain and upgrade technology infrastructure
- Bolster online services to create a “virtual library” on par with what is available in the Library’s physical buildings
- Improve meeting room audio-visual presentation services
- Create a digital media lab where patrons can experiment with multimedia production

Our libraries advance employment.

The 2010 U.S. Impact Studies Report found that 42% of all users surveyed reported they had used Library resources for employment or career help in the last 12 months.