

Olds Municipal Library

EXPANSION PROJECT

Why a bigger library?

The Olds Municipal Library has been serving the community from its current facility for the past 25 years. We have been very proud of the service we have provided. Recently, we embarked on a project to expand the size of the library in order that it may fit with the current standards for libraries and needs in our community. We hope that you will gain a glimpse of how important and beneficial an expanded facility will be to the community.

Patron Comments

"The most helpful caring facility in Olds." (patron survey 2005)

"Your access to biographies and histories is very welcome. Thank you" (patron survey 2005)

"Wow OML is our source for literacy! Fun children's Story Hours where my son learns crafty ideas that we repeat @ home. Importantly, these groups practice group settings for fun pre-school activities that foster beginning steps in social literacy. Thank you!" (patron survey 2005)

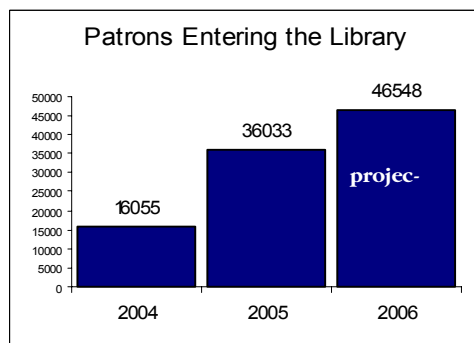
"I have always found the staff to be very helpful, courteous, and friendly. Keep up the good work! Also enjoy being able to access info by internet." (Patron survey 2005)

Population Growth and Library Use:

The increase in the number of people entering the library in, just the last two years, shows how staggering the growth in library use has been. We can also see that when our current facility was built, it was to serve a lower population. Olds is a central location for many of the surrounding communities. We have users from Didsbury, Sundre, and even Cremona, as well as users from around the county.

Population Growth

1982 4813



2006 6700

Library Use

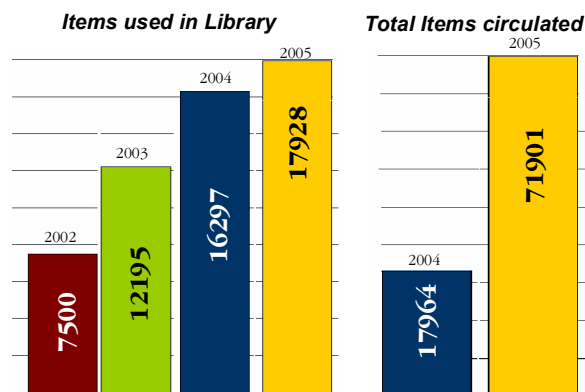
2 times as many visitors in just one year an increase of almost 20 000 visitors from 2004-2005

Space Requirements

According to the Standards for Member Libraries within Alberta's Regional Library Systems for a population of 6700 we should meet the following space requirements.

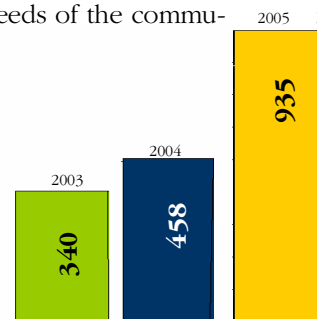
Resource Use

We have seen an increase in the number of customers using the resources in the library facility. This has implications for space required & staff time. In the chart below you will see the materials used in the library. We also circulate around 72000 items per year.



Technology in the Library

Along with our many services we have seen the demand for public access stations increase along with the need for training. We are in need of a proper space to run our courses to fill the needs of the community.



Basic Library Needs

There are 5 basic areas of need that the library board discovered in its building concept study. These areas include Children's and youth areas, technology, general Library Areas, meeting and program rooms, and staff areas. Below you will find information about the needs identified for each area.

Children and Youth

There has been many changes in the children's and youth programs over the past 25 years. Not only does the library offer programs for preschool children but also has a host of programs for youth and teens. We have many community organizations that use our facility including kindergartens, after school programs, and schools. We have identified the following needs in our study.

- Increased seating
- Natural lighting
- Separated children's and youth areas
- Shelving of proper height
- Youth close to computer area
- Family washroom
- A location close to program room
- Able to accommodate larger groups

General Library Areas

One of the main things we have noticed in our library is the lack of space to accommodate people wishing to sit and use the library resources or facilities. Below are the identified needs.

- Place to sit quietly and study or tutor.
- Comfortable seating to wait or read with natural lighting.
- Shelving and proper heights to accommodate children and seniors.
- Better accessibility for wheelchairs in aisles and washrooms.
- More space and shelving for growing collection.



Staff and Storage

As services increase the number of staff needed to provide those services increases. We have also begun sharing our resources and borrowing resources from libraries around the province. We have a number of storage issues that need to be addressed as well as there is currently no storage in the library. As the size of the community increases, the number of new books purchased and processed increases as well. Due to all of these needs the following points have been identified.

- Delivery and Sorting area needed for requests being sent to other libraries and coming to our library from other locations
- Space to process new books and donations including storage space and desk space
- More staff work stations
- Separate office for Library Manager
- Storage for book donations, equipment, and program supplies.
- More efficient circulation desk.
- Separate janitorial storage
- Space to store books waiting to be reshelfed



Technology

One of the largest areas of growth has been the use of technology. Not only does the library provide free internet stations and WiFi capabilities, it also provides a wide variety of training for all members of our community regardless of their current skill levels.

The current building was not built with these services in mind. We have come across several issues that need to be addressed.

- Separate area to cut down on noise and allow for day classes
- Larger area with more stations to meet the increasing demand
- Wheelchair accessible stations
- More room to ensure privacy of stations and meet demand

Meeting Rooms and Program Space

The Olds Municipal Library currently has one meeting space. This space is used for all our children's program, youth programs, and adult programs. We also use this room as an art gallery, storage area, and community meeting area for groups wishing to use the facility. We find the room to be very inefficient and have proposed several needs for the future meeting areas.

- More space for larger groups
- Wheelchair accessible
- Proper kitchen area with storage
- Separate area for meeting room and children's program space
- Program room needs to be close to children's area and include windows for viewing for parents
- Need proper space to use as art gallery for AFA displays