Do Buildings Matter?
The Impact of e-Resources on Bricks and Mortar

Planning for an Unknowable
Future

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Dexter District Library

What I would like to cover today:

1) Provide background on how the Dexter District Library developed over time

2) Discuss issues surrounding the construction of our new building – opened March 2009

3) Discuss community infrastructure challenges in the community

4) Provide an overview of the nature of the services utilized by the Library's community

5) Discuss the opportunities and challenges of e-content provision

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Dexter District Library
1968 - 1996

Move to new building
1996 - 2009

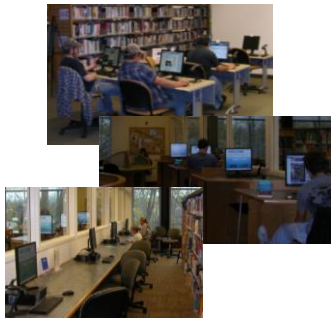New Dexter District Library building – 2009 to Present

Building Considerations

The Dexter Library project was:

1) Community Driven
2) Balance between wants and needs
3) Balance long term infrastructure needs within limitations of project budget
4) Creative use of available land
5) Stressed need for overall computing power and flexibility

Architectural Considerations

1) Skill, track record and compatibility
2) Clear communications
3) Complete understanding of services to be rendered (and not rendered!)
4) Stress flexible building design
5) Recognize no plan will be perfect!

Architectural Considerations
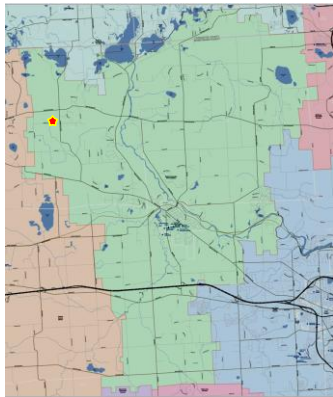
Server rooms and switching

Architectural Considerations

Wired and wireless connections

The Library's service are and connectivity in the community

★ = no cable or DSL access
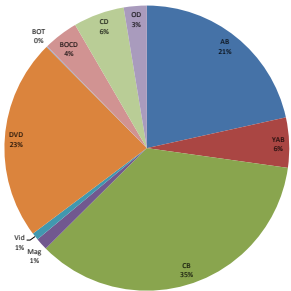
Connectivity inside the Village limits

★ = DSL service unavailable

Dynamics that lead to a new Dexter District Library building

1) Mission -- The Dexter District Library serves everyone by being a center for popular materials in a variety of print, audiovisual and electronic formats
2) User population and growth in the community
3) Popular materials library and resource sharing
4) Growth in library use
5) Limitations of buildings
6) Customer expressed need to expand services

How is the Dexter District Library Used Circulation by Material Type 2011-12

**Dexter District Library Total Annual Circulation 1995-2012
and the development of E-Resources**

E-Resources offered by the Dexter District Library

1) MeL databases
2) Learning Express Library
3) Melcat
4) Gale Virtual reference
5) Ancestry
6) Mango Languages
7) Novelist
8) Facebook/Twitter
9) Overdrive

Providing E-Books

1) Began participation in 2010

2) Service use

3) Constraints

4) Patron Questions

5) Do buildings matter? – hands on, personalized approach, ability to train patrons, support with problems and offer alternatives

SWOT Analysis

1) Strengths - cooperative cost sharing, distributed workload, larger initial collection

2) Weaknesses – Costs for certain titles, large consortium/larger hold lists, ability to satisfy demand

3) Opportunities – consortium is looking to provide other forms of e-content (Freegal, Zinio)

4) Threats – Availability, cost, publisher/wholesaler service contract terms

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The Unknowable Future

Does our building matter?

Today ...Yes

1) Programming

2) Community Center

3) Downtown anchor

4) Patron usage still favors hard copies

Tomorrow -- ?

1) Changing technology

2) Changing nature of reader preferences

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