

## **JOHNSON COUNTY LIBRARIES**

### ***OPERATION AND MISSION***

Johnson County Libraries (JCL) provides minimal support and service to County departments and agencies, but continuously provides service to the citizens of Johnson County.

Johnson County Libraries mission is:

Provide access to ideas, information, experiences, and materials that support and enrich people's lives.

Johnson County Libraries vision is:

Create an environment for people  
to learn  
to explore  
to enjoy  
to create  
to connect.

### ***INTERACTION AND ADJACENCIES***

Because JCL relies so heavily on population and demographic data for forecasting future needs, the department has a high level of interaction with AIMS. JCL has little to no interaction or need for adjacency with all other County departments. However, JCL has strong interaction with outside organizations and is very involved with the community and partnership organizations. There is a strong relationship between the Libraries and organizations such as the American Library Association, the National Endowment for the Arts, Friends of the Library, and KC Science INC. The introduction of new library programs and services often a result of partnerships and grants from organizations, so the level of involvement with various organizations changes annually.

### ***FACTORS INFLUENCING CHANGE***

General growth of County population will affect the need for new or expanded library facilities. JCL currently forecasts facilities needs by analyzing new prospering areas of the county, and quantifying the population growth and commercial development increases of the serviceable area. The plans of local city governments also prompt change and revisions for JCL facilities. The potential for the city of Lenexa to relocate its City Hall and growth opportunities like the Lenexa City Center and the Canyon Creek development have triggered the potential for JCL to relocate the Lackman Library branch to this area.



Demographics also play a large role in determining the space and program needs for library facilities. Studies have shown a direct correlation between education level and library usage. By 2020, the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) has estimated that 525,000 people of the total population will reside in the Johnson County Library service area. This growth has undoubtedly been influenced by the establishment and reputation of the educational resources in the County, such as Johnson County Community College.

According to space standards adopted by the Library Board, Library facilities should be located within three miles of 95% of the residents of the Johnson County Library district, with no branch serving less than 10,000 or more than 50,000 persons. While the current library space standards indicate a requirement of .6 square feet per capita, JCL is estimating a current need of .8 square feet per capita and 3.0 collection holdings per capita. Contrary to originally anticipated, the increase in technology and use of the internet has triggered need for more space and facilities for JCL. The internet has prompted an increased need for electrical power, lighting retrofits, computer space, workstations, and meeting rooms. JCL currently provides over 380 computers to Johnson County residents at various branch locations. On average, the addition of WiFi services to all Johnson County Libraries in 2007 has caused an increase in patron's time spent at the library. An increase in children's programs has also resulted in the increased need for flexible spaces and re-zoning of programmed spaces.

### *SPECIAL NEEDS*

- Relationship of the location to the service population.
- Vehicular access within the area served, major arterial highways/traffic patterns, and routes taken by residents, including public transportation.
- Visibility and ease of identification of the building and its services.
- The drawing influence of adjacent activities (e.g. concentrations of retail and employment).
- Access to parking: on-site or municipal generally 5 spaces per 1,000 square feet of building area.
- Amenities: aesthetic factors and potential enhancement to an area, scenic view, and replacement of deteriorating structures.
- Liabilities: unsuitable neighboring activities such as: flood plain, landfill, and livestock.
- Finishes and building designs to accommodate high traffic from the public.

### *CURRENT CONDITIONS*

JCL currently operates 13 facilities throughout Johnson County. The Olathe Public Library and its branch, Indian Creek Library, are part of a separate library system. Although Olathe Public and Johnson County Library share a catalog and borrowing privileges, Olathe Public Library has a separate Administration, Board and policies.



- **Central Resource Library**

Now over ten years old, the facility is experiencing tremendous demands on available space due to modern Library service programming and the continual growth of usership. The current technical services and district wide operations staff operates out of cramped, in-efficient office space designed for half as many people in the south end of the existing facility. Because the deliveries, processing and collections preparations that happen here serve the entire district, the daily traffic of materials in and out of the facility is cumbersome and inefficient.

- Deferred maintenance totals approximately \$3 million and includes:
  - Retube Boilers
  - Repair undersized beam
  - Repair roof drains
  - Replace carpet
  - Reseal front windows
  - Increase electrical capacity to the building

The Central Resource Library staff has authored a "Re-Configuration Plan" that addressed some key opportunities and needs for the facility to address maintenance and library service delivery. Some of the key aspects include:

- Additional meeting space with video conference capabilities
- A business entrepreneurial support center
- Renovated and reconfigured children's and teen center
- Mobile customer service capabilities in lieu of one central reference desk
- Self-check kiosks + a concierge desk rather than a circulation desk
- Café service
- Power upgrade + mechanical upgrades
- Carpet replacement
- An art gallery and performance space
- Space for collections growth

As Central Resource Library grows into even more of a community resource with future modifications, consideration should be given to a new model for the technical services and administrative functions that are central to the success of each branch facility. The space that is currently allocated for these functions is no longer adequate and the space is valuable commodity for the development of "patron" program and collection opportunities.



- **Antioch**

The commercial traffic impact of this area isolates the Library site from the neighborhood it serves. The building has no visibility to the street and lacks architectural charm or interest. The parking that serves the Library is adjacent to parking for other retail operations and therefore parking has been a problem at this facility since its renovation in 1996. This site was the original location of the Johnson County Administrative offices before moving to the Central Resource Library and now has office space for the volunteers of the Library.

3000 square feet of "Project Finish" space in cooperation with Johnson County Community College. The Johnson County Friends of the Library have space dedicated to their operation in this facility. Their space is a staging, storage and public space for their annual Book Sale fundraiser that is very successful.

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- Deferred maintenance totals approximately \$200,000 and includes:
  - Install redundant/replacement Boiler
  - Improve and update HVAC controls
  - Remodel Air handler
  - Replace small section of roof
  - Replace fire panel and smoke heads
  - Install elevator to second level

Based on demographic information provided by MARC, a large percentage of users of this facility are elderly, which aligns with the maturity of this portion of the county. Parking directly adjacent to the library is limited and patrons often have to use a library-owned lot on the west side of Slater. The parking situation with the adjacent properties is a constant irritant to patrons and staff, as well as other local property owners. Safety officers employed by the library spend a significant amount of their time mitigating parking related issues. A new solution for this service area is a priority.

The building and site conditions are a constant operational problem and are not acceptable to patrons or staff. The corner site has value, but not necessarily for a new Library. No additional investment in this facility and site would be recommended, other than what is necessary for maintenance and current operations. The Friends of the Library space and the Outreach Services, which have been a part of the Antioch facility, should be considered part of the program for a new Support Services building. A new "Antioch" facility that serves this area could be a part of other redevelopment plans in the area. Any new plans for an Antioch replacement should be considered with plans for Cedar Roe, which has similar needs.



- **Blue Valley**

The Blue Valley branch service area has a dynamic, growing population because of the continual growth of south Overland Park and Leawood. The growth of southern Johnson County is predicted to continue at a rate of 2 miles per 10 years. In addition, the 151st street corridor is developing into a major vehicular artery and is currently undergoing substantial improvements to meet the coming demands. Since the Library was built, the property adjacent to 151st street has developed with predominately small scale retail and business development. Future Olathe Public Library branch facilities, as part of their Four Corners plan, will have some effect on the usage of Blue Valley, because many Olathe citizens that currently utilize Blue Valley will have another choice for their local library services.

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