

VI. General Characteristics of the New Facility

The Building Must Serve All Residents

The public library is the only institution in a community which has the mission to serve *all* its citizens. A barrier-free building, programs and services which can be used by every level of society, by every age and by the broadest spectrum of abilities must be created. Ease of use, from exterior traffic patterns and parking design, to interior traffic flow and logical arrangement of spaces and collections will serve most users well.

Widely differing points of view presented by the collections should serve as broad a segment of society as possible. The Library should provide programs and services for children, from toddlers through high school, which can include story hours, author appearances, arts and crafts, computers, the latest teen paperbacks, music CDs, DVDs and any other appropriate format currently used.

The public library should provide convenient hours for students of all ages to access information outside of their more formal educational institutions. There should be evening programs and business materials for working adults. The Library should provide services for seniors including large print books, daytime programs, and a completely accessible building.

The Hopkinton Public Library must be a diverse, broad-based institution able to serve *all* the residents of Hopkinton.

The Building Must Reflect the Public Service Commitment

The Hopkinton Public Library is committed to serving the public in its present building and will continue to do so in the new building. "Since citizens come to the library to satisfy a wide variety of individual intellectual, cultural and emotional needs, the design should be flexible enough so that users feel that they control their library experiences; users can make the library do what they want, not the other way around." (Nolan Lushington and James Kusak, *The Design and Evaluation of Public Library Buildings*, 1991.)

The design should be able to respond to changing services, be cost effective without sacrificing aesthetics and provide for future expansion.