

“Why Do We Need to Expand the Jones Library? The Library is perfect as is!”

In a perfect world, we wouldn't need any more square footage. We truly wish that re-designing our interior to flow more safely and efficiently would solve our problems. As some people have noted, we have several inefficiently used spaces such as in the atrium and on the top floor. Unfortunately, there isn't enough of that inefficiently-used space to give us what we need.

To fully understand the need, it's best to look at each Library department separately, which is what we did when writing the *Building Program*, which you can find on our website. For example:

Adult Collections

The Jones Library has a larger adult collection than that of many other towns its size because its residents are such avid readers and borrowers of library materials. Our current shelving areas are inadequate, however, for the following reasons:

1. In the AV sections, we do not have enough space for our materials, which remain very popular with our patrons. In particular, we are lacking space for Blu-ray films, a relatively new format that is in great demand from Amherst patrons, and the DVD collection has filled all available space. Also, more shelf space is required to provide proper security for the AV collection including the Playaways and Books-on-CD. We would like to house the entire AV collection in one spot.
2. In the book stacks, we would prefer not to use the very top shelves (which are over 6 feet from the floor) or the very bottom shelves, in order to make it easier for people to access the collections. We need more seating in the stacks areas. We do not have enough tables to satisfy the demand, especially tables for groups working on projects. For security reasons, it would also be beneficial to break up the rows of stacks with seating and display areas. We would also like patrons to be able to find their way through the Library (to the restrooms, the meeting rooms, the ESL collections, the Science Fiction collections etc.) with less difficulty than is currently possible.
3. In the “New Books” area, more space would make it easier for patrons to browse by enabling us to display more books face out and to display different genres (mysteries, science fiction, etc.) separately.

Staff are convinced that a renovation of our much-loved Library building would enable us to provide much better service to the public. We have seen beautiful renovated library buildings in Massachusetts, and how patrons and staff have benefited from the changes.