Building size for libraries is determined by usage and the current and future needs of the community. There is no magic number or per capita formula to determine the size of a library’s collection or the physical space needed. (Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners)

Why does the Jones Library need to be expanded? The library has run out of space to keep pace with our community’s needs. A new addition allows the library to:

- create a teen space
- have a children’s department on one floor with enough space to meet the needs of all children who want to use the library
- add much needed additional ESL tutoring rooms
- triple the number of computers & modernize infrastructure
- use Universal Design to create a building accessible to all
- create a larger, fully climate-controlled Special Collections
- create functional, efficient, and flexible spaces designed for how libraries are utilized today and into the future
- improve the work environment for staff
- make the building net-zero ready, including reducing the EUI by 60% and total lifetime carbon emissions by 41%

Amherst Statistics*

Census population: 39,924
Households below the poverty rate: 33%
Households below the living wage: 46%
Households without a computer: 9%
Households without internet access: 10%
ESOL (speak English less than ‘very well’) 6%

* Amherst Statistics are drawn from The Alliance for Digital Equity May 2021 report, The Digital Divide and Challenges to Digital Equity

Jones Library Annual Statistics

Visitors to the building: 227,000
Circulation of materials: 442,000
Children attending programming: 7,000
Adults attending programming: 5,200
ESL programming: 16,000 hours
Computer usage: 25,000 times
Meeting rooms: 1,000 times