

## SCHOOL LIBRARY DESIGN

*Compiled by Susan La Marca, October 2014*

*Professional development on the theme of school library design will necessarily need to cater to the situation, budget and goals of each library team. Learning spaces are changing and teacher librarians need to understand the types of learning spaces which best suit inquiry and problem-based learning. This range of resources helps you think through the way learning and design dovetail together, provides links to many resources on specific aspects of library design and as well as some links for inspiration.*

This guide is divided into three sections:

- **The Relationship between Learning and Design**
- **Curated lists, bibliographies or archives of resources**
- **Inspiration**

As professional development reading the articles and discussions, viewing the images and videos, as a group, or individually, would offer impetus for exploration and discussion.

### **The Relationship between Learning and Design**

**Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD)** 2008, 'OECD work on future educational environments',  
<http://www.oecd.org/education/innovation-education/centreforeffectivelearningenvironmentscele/41533001.pdf>

#### **Reimagining Learning Spaces**

The Reimagining Learning Spaces project was inspired by a call for expressions of interest proposed by the Queensland Centre for Social Science Innovation (QCSSI). The three lead researchers, all members of the QUT Faculty of Education (Australia), pooled their ideas and successfully submitted for a grant that investigated the question:  
*How does the physical environment of school libraries influence pedagogic practices and learning outcomes?*  
<http://reimaginingspaces.education.qut.edu.au/>

**Fisher, Kenn (2001) 'Building better outcomes:** The impact of school infrastructure on student outcomes and behaviour', Schooling Issues

Digest, Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs.

<http://www.dest.gov.au/schools/publications/2001/digest/building.pdf>

**Fisher, Kenn (2009) Pedagogy & space:** Aligning learning & learning environments, <http://sdpl.coe.uga.edu/research/kenfisherbuilding.pdf>

**Greef, Elizabeth. (2009). Bringing a new library into being.**

Considering the connections between learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and design and putting them into practice in creating a new library.

<http://voicethread.com/#e662021>

## **Curated lists, bibliographies or archives of resources**

### **Library by Design**

The Library Journal in USA runs a regular section on design entitled Library By Design. These short and informative articles are archived here:

<http://lj.libraryjournal.com/category/buildings/lbd/>

### **Resources for School Librarians**

This page of links is curated by a retired USA school librarian. It comprises to interesting lists of links:

Building and redesigning libraries and Design for patrons with disabilities

<http://www.sldirectory.com/libsf/resf/building.html>

**American Library Association (ALA)** last updated 2013, *Building libraries and library additions: A selected annotated bibliography*, ALA Library Fact Sheet Number 11.

Building new libraries, additions, and even remodeling can be a daunting task, and one that most librarians do not undertake frequently. This fact sheet provides references to the tools, resources, and advice to help you manage your library building project, whether large or small. Although this list has been segmented by types of libraries--academic (college/university) libraries (along with a section on planning archives and off-site shelving), public libraries, and school libraries--materials listed for one type may have useful information for planning other types of buildings. And the end of this page now includes resources for planning specialized areas within libraries, such as areas for children, teens/young adults or seniors, and on building joint-use libraries

<http://www.ala.org/tools/libfactsheets/alalibraryfactsheet11>

**Association of College and Research Libraries** Established 2008, *Academic Library Building Design: Resources for Planning*, Wiki, last updated 2014.

The *Academic Library Building Design: Resources for Planning* was created in response to frequent inquiries for information about planning academic library buildings, the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) and the Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA) have joined forces to provide a basic framework for architects, planners, and librarians embarking on the planning and design of libraries for higher education. This Guide will provide information for thinking about the design of new and renovated library space, and point toward additional resources that can support, inform and enhance the academic library design process.

<http://www.ala.org/acrl/academic-library-building-design-resources-planning>

**National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities** Library and Media Centre facilities design K to 12' (extensive list of past resources)

Information on the **design** and planning of K-12 school libraries and media centers, compiled by the National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities.

[www.ncef.org/rl/libraries.cfm](http://www.ncef.org/rl/libraries.cfm)

**LibrisDesign** <http://www.librisdesign.org/>

The Libris Design database was a Microsoft Access database which could be used to create library building programs and furniture and equipment cost estimates, plan renovations, and produce budgets for library building projects. Users tailored generic library models into building programs for their own specific projects.

The Cerritos Public Library, Cerritos, California contracted with Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) to develop the Libris DESIGN database with a Library Services and Technology Act grant from the California State Library.

Funds for the development of Libris DESIGN came from a federally funded grant provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act and administered by the California State Library. The LibrisDesign documents may be freely downloaded from the links below.

- Acoustics for Libraries  
[http://books.google.com.au/books/about/Acoustics\\_for\\_Libraries.html?id=w-78tgAACAAJ&redir\\_esc=y](http://books.google.com.au/books/about/Acoustics_for_Libraries.html?id=w-78tgAACAAJ&redir_esc=y)
- Collection Preservation in Library Building Design  
<http://www.slideshare.net/SandraHaro/collection-preservation-in-library-building-design-2004>
- Cost Estimating Simplified <http://www.ebook4shared.com/doc-file/cost-estimating-simplified-libris-design>
- Daylighting Design in Libraries  
[http://books.google.com.au/books/about/Daylighting\\_Design\\_in\\_Libraries.html?id=1vUtcgAACAAJ&redir\\_esc=y](http://books.google.com.au/books/about/Daylighting_Design_in_Libraries.html?id=1vUtcgAACAAJ&redir_esc=y)
- Furniture and Shelving  
<http://www.topmanual.org/detaildocs/furniture-for-libraries-libris-design-472061/>
- Furniture for Libraries  
<http://www.topmanual.org/detaildocs/furniture-for-libraries-libris-design-472061/>
- Library Collection Storage  
[http://books.google.com.au/books/about/Library\\_Collection\\_Storage.html?id=d2gBcgAACAAJ&redir\\_esc=y](http://books.google.com.au/books/about/Library_Collection_Storage.html?id=d2gBcgAACAAJ&redir_esc=y)
- Library Interior Finish Materials  
<http://www.padocss.com/download~54421648335b7bec5c8b4567>
- Library Security  
[http://books.google.com.au/books/about/Library\\_Security.html?id=HA\\_dNwAACAAJ&redir\\_esc=y](http://books.google.com.au/books/about/Library_Security.html?id=HA_dNwAACAAJ&redir_esc=y)
- Library Stacks and Shelving  
[http://books.google.com.au/books/about/Library\\_Stacks\\_and\\_Shelving.html?id=E-1VNwAACAAJ&redir\\_esc=y](http://books.google.com.au/books/about/Library_Stacks_and_Shelving.html?id=E-1VNwAACAAJ&redir_esc=y)
- Lighting for Libraries  
[http://books.google.com.au/books/about/Lighting\\_for\\_Libraries.html?id=gIvOAAACAAJ&redir\\_esc=y](http://books.google.com.au/books/about/Lighting_for_Libraries.html?id=gIvOAAACAAJ&redir_esc=y)
- Renovation or a New Library: A Planning Process  
[http://books.google.com.au/books/about/Renovation\\_Or\\_a\\_New\\_Library.html?id=EZkYOAAACAAJ&redir\\_esc=y](http://books.google.com.au/books/about/Renovation_Or_a_New_Library.html?id=EZkYOAAACAAJ&redir_esc=y)
- Sustainable Library Design  
<http://www.instabooks.net/pdfsummary/sustainable-library-design-libris-design-397130/>

- Technology Infrastructure Design for Libraries  
[http://books.google.com.au/books/about/Technology\\_Infrastructure\\_Design\\_for\\_Lib.html?id=KC4kOAAACAAJ&redir\\_esc=y](http://books.google.com.au/books/about/Technology_Infrastructure_Design_for_Lib.html?id=KC4kOAAACAAJ&redir_esc=y)
- Wayfinding and Signage in Library Design  
[http://books.google.com.au/books/about/Wayfinding\\_and\\_Signage\\_in\\_Library\\_Design.html?id=WamjSwAACAAJ&redir\\_esc=y](http://books.google.com.au/books/about/Wayfinding_and_Signage_in_Library_Design.html?id=WamjSwAACAAJ&redir_esc=y)

**Oblinger, D G (editor) 2006 *Learning spaces*, Educause.**

This excellent collection is available online as an ebook or each chapter can be downloaded separately.

[www.educause.edu/learningspaces](http://www.educause.edu/learningspaces)

The second half of the collection contains a series of case studies. The contents of the first section includes:

- Chapter 1. Space as a Change Agent by Diana G. Oblinger  
View: [HTML](#) | [PDF](#)
- Chapter 2. Challenging Traditional Assumptions and Rethinking Learning Spaces by Nancy Van Note Chism  
View: [HTML](#) | [PDF](#)
- Chapter 3. Seriously Cool Places: The Future of Learning-Centered Built Environments by William Dittoe  
View: [HTML](#) | [PDF](#)
- Chapter 4. Community: The Hidden Context for Learning by Deborah J. Bickford and David J. Wright  
View: [HTML](#) | [PDF](#)
- Chapter 5. Student Practices and Their Impact on Learning Spaces by Cyprien Lomas and Diana G. Oblinger  
View: [HTML](#) | [PDF](#)
- Chapter 6. The Psychology of Learning Environments by Ken A. Graetz  
View: [HTML](#) | [PDF](#)
- Chapter 7. Linking the Information Commons to Learning by Joan K. Lippincott  
View: [HTML](#) | [PDF](#)
- Chapter 8. Navigating Toward the Next-Generation Computer Lab by Alan R. Cattier  
View: [HTML](#) | [PDF](#)
- Chapter 9. Trends in Learning Space Design by Malcolm Brown and Phillip D. Long  
View: [HTML](#) | [PDF](#)
- Chapter 10. Human-Centered Design Guidelines by Lori Gee  
View: [HTML](#) | [PDF](#)
- Chapter 11. Designing Blended Learning Space to the Student Experience by Andrew J. Milne  
View: [HTML](#) | [PDF](#)

- Chapter 12. Sustaining and Supporting Learning Spaces by Christopher Johnson  
View: [HTML](#) | [PDF](#)
- Chapter 13. Assessing Learning Spaces by Sawyer Hunley and Molly Schaller  
View: [HTML](#) | [PDF](#)

### **Designing Libraries**

This site, controlled by a Community Interest Company, curates a range of materials about library design of all kinds from the United Kingdom.

<http://www.designinglibraries.org.uk/>

### **Inspiration**

An image or video search using the most obvious search terms – school library design, school libraries etc., or more specific – school library reading spaces – results in a range of images that can stimulate group discussion around possibilities.

The following sites also contain a range of inspirational images and ideas:

**Designshare** website – Open access articles and details of a range of whole school projects all around the world, some of which include libraries.

<http://www.designshare.com/index.php/articles>

**'Imagining the future of the school library'** – Designshare interview with Doug Johnson and Rolf Erikson.

<http://www.designshare.com/index.php/articles/school-library-future>

### **The L!brary Initiative - Robin Hood Organisation**

Beautiful, inspiring school library spaces that have transformed the educational opportunities of students.

<https://www.robinhood.org/initiatives/library>

### **Opening the Book**

<http://www.openingthebook.com>

### **The School Libraries Project**

The School Libraries Project is an initiative of the Capitol Hill Community Foundation. Both the Foundation and the Project are all-volunteer efforts

in Washington DC, USA. The website outlines the 8 school libraries that were part of the project.

<http://www.schoollibrariesproject.org/designs.html>