

Portsmouth Library Building Tour – 10 June 2008

Present: Rhonda Gurney, Lisa Bozogan, Faith Rainy, Lisa Meehan, Barbara Chalmers,
John Walden, Library Director, the Durfors, Chris Lizotte.
From: Barbara Chalmers

On the above date, those noted above toured the Portsmouth Public Library, with Librarian Susan McCann.

1. Portsmouth Library opened 18 months ago and is LEED certified on property owned by the City.
2. Funding; 2 sources:
 1. Building construction by taxes (\$8 million - \$202/SF)
 2. Equipment and furnishings by fund raising (\$800,000 - \$20/SF).
3. Building Size: 39,550 SF total, 2 story, attic for mechanical equipment & light storage.
4. City Population: 21,000 approximately
5. Collection Size: 120,000 pieces
6. Circulation: 370,000 pieces last year
7. Cardholders: 14,000 approximately
8. Open 7 day/week, except closed Sundays during the summer. (Library seemed quite busy for weekday)
9. About 9 staff on duty at any given time. Approx 25 staff equivalents.
10. 600 requests for meeting space last year!! (Old Library had no meeting space) The new library really has become a community meet and greet and learn facility.
11. Visits up by 15% . Successful outreach to middle schoolers (middle school shares the library parking lot).

12. Building Features:

Although all spaces were very well naturally lit, all the lights were on.
Auto day lighting controls 'value engineered' out of the project for cost reductions.
11' ceiling height both floors.
Large open, 2 story high lobby with welcome desk, main staircase
Café area for casual seating, meeting, beverages by vending machine
Outdoor secure patio
Site was previously an armory. Some roof slate recycled and used on library.
Armory building demolition was almost completely recycled.
Local Ash hardwood used on custom millwork (circulation desks, stack end panels, etc)
224 person first floor meeting room
42 person meeting room on second floor
12 person meeting room on second floor
3 study rooms

First Floor: Youth area, Teen area seemed very small, Kids 'sun porch' / game area
Children's arts and crafts room (15 x 24) – filled with stuff. Didn't seem kid safe
First Floor: Adult fiction and non-print collections.
Lots of varied seating areas scattered through out the library.
Second floor: Non-fiction, periodicals, history & study rooms, user's copier / printer room
Highly energy efficient HVAC system. Super insulated building.

13. Furnishings:

Roller sun shades at south and west facing windows.
Day lighting tower above meeting room with auto shade panels – rigged like sails.
Nice stack chairs (KI). Nice kids furnishings (Worden and TMC, Michigan)
Steel library adjustable shelving with flexible bin feature for displaying large books.
Plexi-glass bins on standard shelves to create display bins, nice CD holders.
Main stacks – 7 shelves high. Children's stacks – 4 shelves high.
Children's shelving on wheels to facilitate rearranging the space.
All copiers in separate rooms with exhaust for fumes.

Picture hanging track system in a lot of the building

14. Operational Features

2 self-serve scanning book check out machines.

Self-serve reserve book pickup

Circulation desk is 3 pods: 1 incoming, 1 outgoing 1 new patron registration

Rubber sports flooring used in circulation desk area – easy on the feet.

Ergonomic computer monitor mounts and roller pad mouse at circulation desk.

Main meeting room is available to non-profit groups only. No charge, just \$50 deposit.

Back of house stair connects staff work areas on both floors.

Lots and lots of staff offices and work space.

Computers: about 40 for staff and 40 for patrons

Staff shower in restroom for bicycler's use (LEED point) seems rarely used.

End notes.