

Library Space Needs Based on 2009 State Recommendations

A warning or caveat emptor on the following evaluation. There are initial extrapolations made from the 2000 and 2010 U.S. Census that may not be valid in projecting our library usage in the year 2030. This is the foundational number that ripples through all the other projections, so I would consider this entire report as a nice theological chat over coffee and not the Gospel itself.

In the paragraphs to follow I will try to briefly explain my methods. Following those, I will present a one-sheet analysis of Library Space needs, **Analysis (A)**, according to what I believe are the State Recommendations for our proposed population in twenty years. Since we are way short of those numbers in our planning, I will present another one-sheet analysis, **Analysis (B)**, modifying the numbers along with the opinions as to why I feel the proposed "downsizing" would be applicable.

And here we go.

The Library's **Design Population** is the cornerstone number off of which everything else is built. The population for the seven townships in the Library District (*Eagle River, Lincoln, Washington, Cloverland, St. Germain, Arbor Vitae, and Conover*) has doubled in the thirty (30) years from the 1970 Census to the 2000 Census. Extrapolating from the 2000 Census to try to foresee the Library District population in 2030 would be a simple doubling of the population, from 12,740 to 24,746 or roughly **25,000**. I actually think this is a pretty valid number given the economy and its potential to spur an exodus from the city over the next decade.

The second important number is the **Resident Borrowing** which tells the most ardent of the Library patrons who are using the most services. The unique "snowbird" situation of our area allows some "non-resident" users to be counted in with our "resident" users. The 2011 report to the State for the Olson Library shows that we had 1,483 non-resident and 5,613 resident borrowers for a total of 7,096 or 43% of the 2010 Census population. Using this percentage of usage would bring us to a 2030 Resident Borrowing population of roughly **11,000**.

The other numbers to be plugged into mix are also from the 2011 report to the State. And here's where your caveat-alarm should be going off. Basing the increase of each category on the percentage of increase from 2010 to 2011 would give us a huge, honkin' number for the 2030 projections. With technology galloping ahead and the increased use of personal electronics like smart phones and e-readers, I believe these numbers to be too large and unrealistic. I will make my opinions known on these categories in Analysis (B), however here are the numbers used for Analysis A as it pertains to **Library Collection Size** and a 60% increase across the board in Collection Size to 2030.

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2030</u>
Books:	40,939	65,600
Periodicals:	88	140
Non-Print (A/V)	5,189	8,300

Computer Stations is difficult to assess since the WI-DPI site is being revamped and the Appendix data for this 2009 report is inaccessible for the month. I have found report from a Connecticut library that, in 2002, was roughly the proposed 2030 size of our library (*10,000 resident borrowers with 14 computer stations*). Going with that and the increase of IT in our society, produced a rather subjective number of our **proposed computer stations at 20.**

Library Seating is computed off of the Design Population number mentioned above. The recommendation is five (5) seats for every 1,000 people in the Library's Service Area, i.e. the Design Population. This means that there should be table, carrel, and lounge seating totaling **124 chairs.** I find this number somewhat unrealistic and will address this in Analysis B.

Staff Workstations can be determined accurately at **4 workstations.**

The **Community Room** size would be **setting for 100** plus **presentation room of 100 sq ft.**

The **StoryTime/Activity Area** for **50 kids** with **50 sq ft for presentation.**

The **Meeting Room (Computer Training Room?)** sized for **20 participants** with a presentation area of **80 sq ft.**

Special Use/Non-Assignable Space, which I would assume to be bathrooms, walkways, and HVAC areas, is designated as **37.5% of Gross Area.**

Changes between Analysis (A) and Analysis (B)

Library Collection Size

Books: Reduced to 50,000 vol. from 65,600 projected vol.

Periodicals: Reduced to 110 vol. from 140 projected vol.

Non-Print: Reduced to 6,500 vol. from 8,300 projected vol.

Computer Stations: Reduced to 15 stations from 20 projected stations

Library Seating: Reduced to 75 seats from 124 projected seats

Formulas Used for Space Needs in Analysis (A)

**(based on projected Resident Borrowers of 10,641
and Service Area of 24,746)**

(all equations figured for "*excellent*" planning effort)

Library Collection Size was projected at a 60% increase based on previous 20 yr growth

Books: (Projected Volumes / 10 volumes = sq ft needed)

Periodicals: (Projected Volumes / 1 volume = sq ft needed)

Non-Print: (Projected Volumes / 10 volumes = sq ft needed)

Computer Stations: (# of Stations X 40 = sq ft needed)

*Based subjectively off of 2002 Connecticut library evaluation
which has Resident Borrower base of roughly 10,000*

Library Setting: (5 seats per 1,000 people in Service Area X 30 = sq ft needed)

*Chair requirements for: table=25 sq ft
carrel=30 sq ft
lounge=35 sq ft*

Library Staff Space: (# of workstations X 150 = sq ft needed)

Community Room: ((# of chairs X 10) + 100 for presentation area = sq ft needed)

StoryTime/Activity: ((# of children X 10) + 50 for presentation area = sq ft needed)

Meeting Room: ((# of stations X 50) + 80 for presentation area = sq ft needed)

Special Use/

Non-Assignable: 37,5% of Gross Area