

Moving, Remodeling, Building: The Experts Speak

Program C-2, Coordinator: Ann Hemmens
Friday Oct. 14, 2005, 1:30 - 3:00pm, Room 133

TIPS FROM THE EXPERTS

Tim Sheehy

1. During the design phase and meetings with architects and planners, it was an almost universal experience that people tried to recreate their previous work environment and maintain similar adjacencies. After a few meetings we realized that what 'is' may not be good design. Use design as a point to re-think your work environment and methods of operation.
2. Muck will happen during the move and as you start living with the space you designed. Don't blame yourself and don't blame others. Spend your energy and capital on ways to improve or fix the situation.
3. Enjoy the entire process! The opportunity to design and move a library doesn't happen many times in your career. Use the event as a chance to develop or use untapped skills. It is the perfect time to bond, create working relationships and cement friendships within your library and parent organization.

Rick Stroup

1. Involve all staff members as completely as possible in the redesign process so that everyone has the opportunity to contribute and assume some ownership.
2. Be a tenacious advocate for the library at every step of the process and be extremely diligent in protecting your interests during the many "change" meetings.
3. Don't use a moving company who hasn't handle a library move before under any circumstances.

Kristin Cheney

1. Create "flexible" space that can be repurposed to accommodate changes and/or expansions in services, staff, users and collections.
2. If your remodel or new construction is part of a larger project, pay close attention to the planning and design of the non-library areas as design of these other units can directly impact the library. For example, if the library plans include appropriate library storage space, while other departments do not plan for enough storage space, guess where these other departments will look for storage space in the future?

3. Even architects who have been involved in other library design projects (and hopefully your architect falls into that category) need to be educated regarding how your library “works,” (e.g., what services you provide, who your patrons are, your relationship to various constituencies, work flow patterns and task adjacencies, etc.). The more informed your architect, the better your chances that the building design will ultimately address and satisfy both your current and future needs.

Penny Hazelton

1. Be a forceful advocate for the largest amount of space possible for the library; if your collections are shrinking, increase the size and dimensions of user spaces. You represent **all** future library users.
2. Create staff offices that have natural light and that are functional and attractive. Library users come and go, but a happy staff is a productive, high energy staff.
3. Everyone will handle creation of and moving to new or remodeled space in different ways and at different times. Recognize this and encourage casual interactions and conversations about people’s concerns or worries.