

If money were no object, what are the two top features you would seek in your new/remodeled dream library?

Note from the editor: *This month's question arrived in members' e-mail boxes early in the day of yet another round of layoffs. The economic crisis evidenced by that depressing news affects all librarians and can sear our emotions raw. Still, in the midst of darkness it's important to dream and to be prepared for the future.*

These responses give us glimpses into the dreams of our colleagues: some whimsical, some incredibly altruistic, and all demonstrating a dedication to improving customer service.



Nathan Sawyers for MetroNaps®

MetroNaps® EnergyPod

(http://www.metronaps.com/mn/the_metronaps_service/the_energypod) and robotic massage chairs; and free or subsidized use of printers and photocopiers for pro se patrons conducting legal research.”

—**Christopher O’Byrne**, research librarian at Notre Dame Law School Kresge Library in Notre Dame, Indiana.

“I would remodel my community’s library to make it as environmentally sustainable as possible, showcasing cutting-edge technology and design. This remodel would have the highest U.S. Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification and would include a massive solar component providing for the electrical demands for both facility and hybrid plug-in vehicles operated by staff and patrons. Fascinating educational exhibits would be scattered all over the building and property describing the features and technologies that are available to help meet our energy needs today and into the future.”

—**David Selden**, law librarian at National Indian Law Library/Native American Rights Fund in Boulder, Colorado.



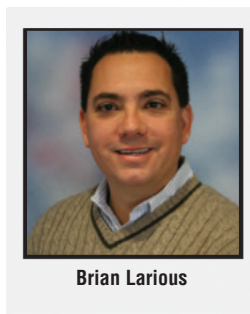
David Selden

“I would like to see a room for the patrons with disabilities with special computers and seating.”

—**Mimi Gimblin**, law librarian at Shasta County Public Law Library in Redding, California.

“If money were no object, I would place radio-frequency identification (RFID) tags in every item in my collection, and then wire all of our offices for reception. Nothing would make my staff happier than being able to quickly identify the location of missing materials. The technology is there (and in use by a few lucky librarians), and is just waiting for our accounting department to issue a purchase order number. The impact on our budget (not having to constantly replace ‘lost’ items) and on our morale would be significant. Even though I know we would miss the midnight raids of our derelict attorneys’ offices, I think we could live with the sacrifice.”

—**Brian D. Larios**, director of library services at Lathrop & Gage L.C. in Kansas City, Missouri.



Brian Larios

“Whoa! I would use the money to create a business intelligence (BI) research unit within the library staffed with three to four people. I’d get top-flight, experienced BI people who could give those marketing people astounding responses to their requests, and even anticipate their needs by giving them material that would knock their socks off. They would thus create oodles of business for our attorneys and ensure the absolute relevancy of the library to the health of the firm.”

—**Kathleen Martin**, director of library services at McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP in Washington, D.C.



Sandy Brewer

“Since money is no object, I am requesting that our remodeled law library be located on the ground level of the circuit court. When visitors to the court enter the building, one of the

first two doors they will see will be the law library, right across from the clerk’s office. And, of course, I will be requesting the most modern and efficient Webcam, so that I can work from home one day a week!

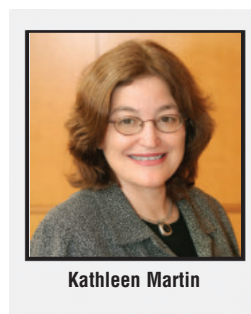
—**Sandy S. Brewer**, law librarian at Circuit Court for Howard County in Ellicott City, Maryland.

“Supposing ‘roof garden with hot tub and tiki bar’ would be an inappropriate response to this month’s *AALL Spectrum* member question. Pity.”

—**Meg Kribble**, reference librarian and outreach and community relations specialist at Harvard Law School Library in Cambridge, Massachusetts, via Twitter.



Meg Kribble



Kathleen Martin

For more responses to this month’s “Member to Member” question, please visit www.aallnet.org/products/pub_sp0905.asp.