



ILSLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

STRATEGIC PLAN 2015

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Ilsley Library. Discover, Read, Create.

Ilsley Library embodies the vigor and ambition of our community. We are accessible, lively, and inviting to all. The library is a hub for learning, public dialogue, and quiet relaxation.

Background

Ilsley Public Library is one of the busiest libraries in Vermont, ranking at the top in circulation, program attendance, and building use year after year. We rank in the top 3% of libraries of our size nationally. Middlebury residents love the library, support it with a generous annual budget appropriation, and rely on our exceptional collections, services, and staff.

The library last drafted a strategic plan in 2006. A year later, in 2007, the Apple iPhone and Amazon Kindle were released, fundamentally changing the ways we interact with technology, books, and media. New technologies and the evolution of Middlebury itself required us to draft fresh strategies and priorities.

Working with library consultant Barbara Doyle-Wilch, we surveyed library visitors, reviewed demographic trends, held brainstorming activities, consulted with veteran and newly-arrived library staff, reached out to key community stakeholders, and reviewed the qualities of first-rate public libraries across the state and country.

This document lays out the findings of our investigation and details our ambitions as we strive to extend our reach and to stay relevant to the changing needs of our community.

vGoals

Ilsley is welcoming to all

Adequate parking, inviting entrances, and an accessible building, especially for the elderly and families with young children.

Comfortable furnishings, effective mechanical systems, clear signage, and shelves designed for easy browsing.

A clean, bright, well-maintained building, quiet reading nooks and study areas, flexible meeting rooms. adequate, safe bathrms, and an effective and efficient HVAC system.

Ilseley is Middlebury's hub for reading, technology and community

Popular and classic materials, digital media production tools, public computers, and expert staff to help with all patron needs.

Excellent educational and entertaining programs.

Ilseley enriches the lives of children and youth

Story times, learning activities for children of all ages, and a vibrant summer reading program.

Partnerships with schools and preschools to promote literacy.

Up-to-date access to technology, and spaces dedicated to tweens and teens.

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What changes are needed?

Ilseley is welcoming to all

- ✦ Sufficient Parking
- ✦ Accessible, inviting ground level entrance
- ✦ Space for quiet and louder uses to coexist
- ✦ Spaces that can readily be re-configured to accommodate large and small groups.
- ✦ Functional and updated public and staff space in youth services
- ✦ Elevator modernization
- ✦ Browsable, attractive shelving
- ✦ More natural light and efficient modern lighting
- ✦ Sewer line repairs
- ✦ Safer and more bathrooms
- ✦ Effective and efficient HVAC system
- ✦ Improved signage
- ✦ Identifying and welcoming non-users

Ilseley is Middlebury's hub for reading, technology and community

- ✦ Additional technology training
- ✦ More staffing needed for technology and programming
- ✦ Increased partnerships
- ✦ Creation of IPL fund
- ✦ Tech Help/Maker Space facilities
- ✦ Additional space for non-book storage
- ✦ Space for janitorial and maintenance supplies

Ilseley enriches the lives of children and youth

- ✦ Improved services for teens and tweens
- ✦ Staffing and technology for teens and tweens
- ✦ Dedicated spaces for pre-literacy programs and teens/tweens
- ✦ Adequate, age-appropriate shelving

