

APPENDIX G - LIBRARY LOCATION AND SITE CRITERIA

Like any for profit, non-profit or public service oriented entity, success and use of library services are all about “location, location, location!” The following criteria have been proven to positively impact library use and customer satisfaction.

- Site that is highly visible from the majority of directions as one approaches the facility
- Site that is on or immediately adjacent to frequently traveled streets and roads (on the way to and from where people who reside and/or work in the service area travel daily)
- Easy entry to and exit from the library parking lot to main roads and side streets leading to main roads
- Controlled left turns onto major high traffic streets
- Locating libraries on public transit routes with the library being within safe and easy walking distance of those transit stops
- Consider safe pedestrian access and bicycle access
- Mixed use developments combining retail, residential and office spaces as opportunities for locating libraries
- Lot size large enough to accommodate outdoor library uses (reading garden/porch, program amphitheater), building expansion, ample parking and drive up materials returns directly into the building
- Co-location with complimentary government entities, e.g. recreation centers, parks, community colleges, fire stations, etc. only if all of preceding site criteria, are present
- Joint-use library facilities between public libraries and community college libraries (success as demonstrated by national experience)
- Joint use public and school system libraries only in instances of last resort given differences of institutional missions, school security, discomfort of general public (families and active adults) with middle and high school student bodies, parking challenges, etc.