Designed for Learning:
School Libraries
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DVD Produced by CILIP School Libraries Group in partnership with MLA
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Editor – Kathryn Sheard

ISBN-10 0-9543792-9-2
Find out more ...

**PLANNING an effective library**

Do

- Identify how the library will support the school vision for learning
- Allocate a footprint that can enable these functions
- Identify how, when and by whom the library will be used
- Select a library location to best suit all users
- Recognise that libraries are not statutory; this can be the time for a school to develop a library space that will make a real difference
- Take time to involve young people and the wider school community
- Involve the librarian; do not assume s/he will be a ‘gatekeeper’!
- Make use of regional and local Schools Library Services
- Learn from other libraries
- Bring to the project great ideas from other sectors eg workspace design
- Design to sustain flexibility & adaptability
- Recognise the value of specialist library suppliers
Find out more ...

LAYOUT

- Identify how, when & by whom the library space will be used
- Consider the size of footprint that will be needed to enable these functions
- Consider break out spaces
- Consider the needs of individuals, small & large groups
- Consider the needs of disabled users
- Consider the need for circulation space and access routes
- Consider making use of the perimeter for fixtures, to create a central space that can be reconfigured
- Consider how best the space can enable learning
- Incorporate 2D and 3D exhibition/display space
- Ensure visible sight lines
- Consider the advantages of single/multiple entry/exit points
- Consider the needs of students and staff for storage and lockers
- Consider how resources will be loaned; self issue stations
- Consider a focus for student enquiries
- Consider zoning with colour
- Consider the need for staff work space
Find out more ...

**DESIGN CASE STUDIES**

Case Studies

- Designing Libraries: the gateway to better library buildings  
  [www.designinglibraries.org.uk](http://www.designinglibraries.org.uk)

- Campaign for the Built Environment case studies  
  [www.cabe.org.uk](http://www.cabe.org.uk)

- SCONUL Academic libraries database  
  [www.sconul.ac.uk/hot_topics/space_planning/library_buildings/buildings/](http://www.sconul.ac.uk/hot_topics/space_planning/library_buildings/buildings/)

- Database of dual use libraries  
  [www.ebase.uce.ac.uk/dualuse/database.php](http://www.ebase.uce.ac.uk/dualuse/database.php)

- Design checklist and case studies  
  [www.bsf-culture.org.uk](http://www.bsf-culture.org.uk)

- School – primary to academy  
  Architecture Today ISSN 0958-6407  
  October 2006, Number 172, pages 36-82

The case studies include many libraries that demonstrate *some* of the principles outlined on the dvd. These include -

Blyth Community College  
Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College  
Caroline Chisholm School  
Castle Rock High School  
Djanogly City Academy Nottingham  
Idea Store, Tower Hamlets  
Jubilee Library Brighton  
Peckham Library  
Pokesdown Primary School  
Saïd Business School, Oxford  
Stow Heath Junior School  
Thetford Grammar School
DESIGN SERVICES AND SCHOOLS FEATURED ON THIS DVD

- CILIP buyers’ guide: consultancy services
  www.cilip.org.uk/buyersguide/

- SCHOOL WORKS
  How existing resources can be used in different ways to create beautiful places.
  www.school-works.org.uk

Locations featured on the dvd

Batley Girls’ High School – Visual Arts College
Windmill Lane
Batley
West Yorkshire
WF17 0LD

Djanogly City Academy
Gregory Boulevard
Nottingham
NG7 6ND

International School London

Saltire Centre
Glasgow Caledonian University
Cowcaddens Road
Glasgow
G4 0BA

Westfield Community Technology College
Tolpits Lane
Watford
Herts
WD18 6NS
ACOUSTICS, ICT, LIGHTING

Do
- Design acoustics to support concurrent use by individuals and groups
- Ensure the acoustics enable different functions
- Consider the impact of double-height spaces
- Consider the impact on the library of noisy adjacent corridors and spaces

Do
- Provide sufficient power sources in appropriate locations
- Consider wireless/networking implications
- Cater for mobile & fixed computers to support the school vision for ICT
- Enable flexibility for ipods and developing technologies
- Make use of interactive message boards to communicate key information
- Consider remote access to the library for the wider school community
- Consider security systems
- Provide ICT to support library management / self-issue systems
- Consider mechanisms to manage the heat generated by computers

Do
- Design lighting to support different functions
- Consider lighting with regard to computer use
- Consider the use of opaque materials or blinds where appropriate
- Design lighting in line with shelving
BUILDING BULLETINS

- BUILDING BULLETIN 99.
  Briefing Framework for Primary School Projects

- BUILDING BULLETIN 98
  Briefing Framework for Secondary School Projects
  www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=6381

- BUILDING BULLETIN 93
  Acoustic Design of Schools
  www.teachernet.gov.uk/acoustics

- BUILDING BULLETIN 77 (Draft)
  Designing for Pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in Schools
  www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=8693
EVALUATING LIBRARIES


These frameworks are available at -
www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachingandlearning/resourcematerials/schoollibraries/

In each of these documents, Key Question 4 addresses library accommodation
FURNITURE, FURNISHINGS, SHELVING

Guides to Suppliers

CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals) Buyers’ Guide
www.cilip.org.uk/buyersguide/

Designing Libraries; the gateway to better library buildings
www.designinglibraries.org.uk

Do

• Ensure shelving is adjustable
• Choose shelving systems with standard components - for flexibility
• Take into account that some shelving is a barrier to light and sightlines
• Ensure shelving is suitable for the resources, eg shelving designed for offices may not be appropriate or safe for libraries
• Ensure height range of shelving is age-appropriate
• Have a variety of shelving to accommodate different media
• Ensure some shelving will display resources face-on
• Establish the amount of shelving required for different purposes
• Consider stability & safety of shelf units

Do

• Provide tables & chairs of a size appropriate for users
• Provide moveable furniture to support different functions – reading, research, discussion...
• Provide formal & informal seating
• Ensure some of the tables are height adjustable, to accommodate wheelchair users
• Consider stools/leans for short term computer use

Do

• Ensure carpets and furnishings contribute to a welcoming, vibrant library
• Make use of colour contrast to aid orientation and signal usage
GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIES

• BARRETT, L and DOUGLAS, J eds
  CILIP Guidelines for Secondary School Libraries
  FACET 2004 ISBN 1 856 044 81 5
  *Facilities management pages*

  ![Guidelines for Secondary School Libraries](image)

• Primary School Guidelines
  CILIP 2002 ISBN 0 954 379 20 9
  [www.cilip.org.uk](http://www.cilip.org.uk)
  Insert ‘primary school guidelines’ in search field
  ‘Creating the environment’ pages 3-4

• DUBBER, G and LEMAIRE, K
  Visionary Spaces: Designing and Planning a
  Secondary School Library
  SLA 2007 ISBN 978 1 903446 38 6

• DEWE, M
  Design and Ideas: Creating the Environment
  for the Primary School Library
  SLA 2007 ISBN 978 1 903446 39 3
Find out more ...

**INVOLVING OTHERS**

Being Involved in School Design: a guide for school communities, local authorities, funders and design and construction teams.

BURKE, Catherine and GROSVENOR, Ian
The School I’d Like: children and young people’s reflections on an education for the 21st century.
Routledge 2003 ISBN 0 415 30115 7

Involving artists in library building programmes
[www.bsf-culture.co.uk/case_study.php?id=23](http://www.bsf-culture.co.uk/case_study.php?id=23)

Learning environments of the future
[www.buildingfutures.org.uk](http://www.buildingfutures.org.uk)

SCHOOL WORKS
Involving users to create beautiful places
[www.school-works.org.uk](http://www.school-works.org.uk)

SORRELL FOUNDATION joinedupdesignforschools initiative to involve young people in design.
[www.thesorrellfoundation.com/initiative.html](http://www.thesorrellfoundation.com/initiative.html)
Find out more ...

ORGANISATIONS

- SCHOOLS LIBRARY SERVICES
  Regional organisations that offer services, advice and guidance to schools and authorities – listed at
  www.strongest-links.org.uk/support_schoolslibservices.htm

- CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS (Cilip)
  Cilip Special Interest Group - The School Libraries Group has around 3000 members
  www.cilip.org.uk

- MUSEUMS LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES COUNCIL
  www.mla.gov.uk

- SCHOOL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
  www.sla.org.uk

- STRONGEST LINKS – not an organisation, but an excellent insight into the world of school libraries, managed by Anne Robinson
  www.strongest-links.org.uk

- INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIES
  www.iasl-slo.org/
RESEARCH & SURVEYS OF SCHOOL LIBRARIES


READING LIST USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS DVD


DUDEK, Mark
Children’s Spaces. Architectural Press. 2005 ISBN 0 750 654 26 0

DESIGN QUALITY INDICATORS
www.dqi.org.uk

EDUCATION DIRECT
Space for Learning: a handbook for education spaces in museums, heritage sites and discovery centres. Education Direct. 2004. PO Box 105, Rochester, Kent ME2 4BE

HARGREAVES, David
Personalising Learning – 6. The final gateway: school design and organisation. Specialist Schools and Academies Trust 2006 ISBN 1 905150 33 4

RUDD, Tim, GIFFORD, Carolyn and FACER, Keri

SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE
Transforming Schools: an inspirational guide to remodelling secondary schools. DfES 1140 - 2004
This DVD shows the contribution an effective school library can make to the educational, creative, emotional and reading development of children and young people - and the aspects of design that can enable this. It also signposts case studies and practical guidance to support library design.

“If we wish to develop a nation of self motivated, self actualised individuals then we must provide the places for developing the independent learning skills required”

Les Watson - Leading Educational Advisor

“Where is the one place in the school, where people come together, to share and exchange and swap, but do so with an expectation of scholarship, with an expectation of quality, with an expectation of academic ambition? It’s the library!”

Stephen Heppell

“Building Schools for the Future is not just about bricks and mortar; it’s about helping transforming the teaching and learning that goes on inside new and refurbished schools. This DVD supports the vision of BSF in providing inspirational library design to support 21st Century learning and extended school services.”

Tim Byles, Chief Executive, Partnerships for Schools

DVD Project Team. Kathryn Sheard - CILIP School Libraries Group (Editor), Sue Jones - ASCEL, Helen Pallett, Hilary Knowles and Lynn Barrett, with advice from Kathy Lemaire – SLA, and Sharon Markless – King’s College London

We would like to thank the students and staff at Batley Girls’ High School – Visual Arts College, Djanogly City Academy, International School – London, Kirkbyds Infant School, The Salfire Centre and Westfield Community Technology College.

Running Time - 27.5 minutes
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ISBN 10 0-9543792-9-2

The Production Company
Yorkshire Ltd