Uinta County Library
Lyman Branch
New Building Feasibility Study

April 24, 2009

Conducted by:
Uinta County Library Board of Trustees
Uinta County Library Staff
Uinta County Library Foundation Board

With input by:
Officials from the Town of Lyman
Citizens of Uinta County

Consultants:
Blalock and Partners, Architectural Design Studio
History

The Lyman Branch Library opened in April 1916 in a former one room schoolhouse. In 1976 the library occupied a 992 square foot building with a 4,200 volume collection. The current library was built in 1980 with an original floor space of 1,600 square feet. By 1986 the structure was proving inadequate and an addition was completed doubling the size to 3,200 square feet. The collection at this time was 10,994 volumes and circulation was close to 23,000 items per year.

Current Conditions and Concerns

At the end of the 2008 fiscal year the size of the collection has increased by 29% to 15,545 volumes and the numbers of items circulating has increased by 28%. Additionally new library uses have arisen, such as public internet access that was not planned for in the current building. As usage of the library has continued to increase the current building has shown major deficiencies in meeting the needs of the library to serve the public. Several concerns are highlighted:

A. Shelving space
All available floor space for shelving has been used. The shelves in the majority of areas are now at capacity. In these areas, when new materials are added, older materials have to be removed because of space issues. Two of the top answers on our 2008 Patron Survey for what would you like to see at your Library were more books and more movies.
B. Program Space/Public Meeting Space
The current programming space in the library has a capacity of 20-25 seats. Library programs are consistently drawing 3 times that number of people. This space is used for both adult programs and children’s programs and activities. Unfortunately, when the attendance is large, the overflow spills into the adult area.

This space is also for use as a public meeting room. Drawbacks include size, amenities, and the lack of availability to use the room after regular library hours, i.e. separate entrance and restroom facilities.
Parking

The current building has approximately 16-18 parking spaces (they are not all lined). While this is adequate for normal operations it is insufficient for times when there are programs or events at the library.

Accessibility

Several concerns have been pointed out regarding the current building’s accessibility. The grade of the sidewalk leading up to the main entrance is too steep. The entry vestibules are not deep enough for a wheelchair to enter and then get the second door open and the doors are not power assisted. The crowded conditions in the library spaces also are causing ADA spacing issues.
Staff Space/Storage

Staff work space is totally inadequate. There are not flat surfaces available to work on and all storage space is at capacity. Staff have to use public area tables to do work, necessitating having to travel back to the service desk to serve patrons, answer the phone, etc.
Conclusions

This feasibility study has shown that the usage of the Lyman Library has continued to increase, including a 30% increase in use over the last 8 years! Unfortunately, the infrastructure is no longer adequate to meet the needs of the community. It is the conclusion of this study that a new facility will be a community asset that will greatly improve the Library’s ability to serve the citizens of Lyman and improve their quality of life.

Additionally, with a new building, services such as public internet access and community meeting space will increase. Another need identified was for a training lab to be available for local businesses to use for training and seminars. These services will aid in economic development and area education. Finally, as a public organization that provides educational, recreational and informational services free of charge, the library benefits low and moderate income people.