

**Comment cards completed by visitors to the Ames Public Library
after taking building tours offered April 23, 24 and 25, 2009**

I did not realize how much behind-the scene work is involved in getting circulation items on shelves. How lovely the big 1904 windows are. How stuffy most of the behind-the-scenes areas are. What a job it will be to add on and renovate existing library the make it function efficiently. An architect experienced in libraries is to be treasured.

The Ames Public Library is now very welcoming. Please don't design a library like the Des Moines Public Library or some very austere space. Very good tour!

Thanks for the great tour – who would have known all that goes on behind the scenes. You really do need more space!!

Excellent tour by Jerri. I'm a long-time volunteer, but learned lots of new things. Great staff, but they need more room -- too many cubby holes.

Thank you for the tour. It's amazing everything you are able to do with such cramped space.

A very helpful, informative tour. I will be telling other preservation commission members to stop by.

Well-guided, interesting, lots of facts, answered questions well.

We need new, expanded library space! Anyone who doesn't think so really would learn so much by taking this tour.

Very good tour. The need for new or expanded facilities is apparent. Thank you.

Very interesting. I see how cramped the rooms are. I liked seeing how the books and video items came into the alley drop.

I think space is well needed. Need more computers. Need ramps.

This library is exceptional! It is excellent!! Programs, staff and volunteers are all informative and helpful to ALL members of the community. Keep up the GREAT work!

Nice tour, informative.

Fabulous! Expand!

Really FUN! It was a great learning experience! I enjoyed being able to go to the places I never knew were here! Thank you so much!

Thanks! Great tour. Had an enjoyable time.

Very informative and interesting. This library is one of my favorite places. Keep up the excellent work!

I really enjoyed the tour, but the premise wasn't explained. Is a new building in the works? Is it a done deal?

I understand the need for more space and more open space and more efficient space. That being said, I am a strong advocate for utilizing (the) existing building, even if it means gutting. Re: Ames City Hall.

Love the library! It is definitely too crowded. I would be happy to select some books to take home so you have more space.

I can much more fully appreciate the need for a larger library space after having taken the tour. It is hard to vote for a larger building if you have not seen the tight working conditions, especially in this economy. However, having seen first hand the cramped spaces, I would have no problem voting for a larger library.

I really hope the library is able to get the new space/facility to accommodate the needs and space requirements estimated/projected.

I love this library and would love to see new additions. A library should be every growing and always changing!

Thanks a lot of the great tour around the building. I really enjoyed the time.

Wonderful tour – definitely need more space. I'm surprised you have managed this long while increasing services.

Thank you!

I would like to see the library move to a new location.

Love the library! The services are great and the library folks are friendly and do a great job. Good work with the book sale – and all the clubs!

I think the library does a wonderful job with setting up activities for kids! We come to the library at least 4 times a week.

Great tour – support the new expansion! Question...why is food and drink allowed in the library? I find it distracting and unsanitary.

Great tour! Great library! Right on!

Great tour. I was not aware of the challenge staff and volunteers face bringing a book to the floor. Library does an excellent job.

I really enjoyed the tour. It helped me learn how much work the staff has to do to ensure that everything is organized for the public. Good luck in all the projects for establishing additional space.

Great tour guide, Nancy.

I didn't realize how cramped the library was. I totally agree there needs to be more room. The tour was great.

I think the library needs a big place.

Wonderful – great to see! Thanks so much.

What would you do with the old library building if you were to move out? If you have more space can you keep an international book collection like books in different languages, like Spanish, for example?

It would help me decide which plan I would prefer if you could give possible (likely) uses for the current building should a new building be the chosen option. Great tour – the library and staff are terrific!

This was very informative. I learned a great deal about the library that I didn't previously know. If I have time, I will make it a point to attend one of the upcoming meetings.

Thank you for an excellent guided tour.

Enjoyed the tour.

Great! 😊

Do you know if my “interest free tax plan” has been reviewed by the library? I sent Mr. Weeks a lengthy e-mail on the subject.

Looks to me, after touring the “bowels” of the library, that we need a new one, not just a retrofitting of the existing one, which was also retrofitted 2-3 times.

My guide made the tour very interesting. It is very obvious that you need more (lots more) room and better air circulation. I love using the Ames library and have for years.

Great tour. Thank you. We need more space, perhaps a new building.

The tour was interesting and informative. Our guide (Drew) was knowledgeable and personable. I am now convinced that the library desperately needs to expand. I will vote in support of the bond. Thanks!

Very interesting to see what takes place where and understand some of the problems and how things progress so I can check out a book.

You need a new library!

The tour was fun.

I can understand that conditions are not ideal, but given the state of the economy, you may need to scale back some of the wanted space needs.

Sweet library. Good luck with the new place. Very pleasant tour guide. Keep up the good work!

I enjoyed the tour. I would have enjoyed it years ago when I first moved to town. If it was offered each year, I have never noticed an ad. I might like to volunteer, but I have limited time. How are volunteer options and needs posted?

Thanks.

The mail room is small. I never knew about the teen space. 😊

Really enjoyed the tour! Please do this again! Learned lots we didn't know before!

Interesting tour – didn't realize how much more space the library needs.

Over the last 3½ years, I've spent many hours in the libraries in Minnesota and Wisconsin, primarily using the WiFi. I believe that any money spent on a library system is a worthwhile investment for the people of the community.

Great services from a very crowded facility! Staff are to be commended! Hope we get a new building!

Very interesting. I liked looking at places we don't see.

Very interesting. I had no idea all the “challenges” the library is facing. I hope the word gets out to the public. Wow. Lots of needs.

I liked the garage.

Getting books from start (delivery) into circulation is very convoluted! What an efficient staff, to “make the best” of terribly cramped, convoluted spaces! Stay here, downtown, and add and gut and purchase east of Douglas. I will be continuing to attend! What a wonderful staff, to “accommodate” the cramped quarters.

Fantastic, informative tour by Val.

Tour well done. Thanks.

Thank you for the informative tour with a competent tour director. Ames is proud of what you do.

Very crowded office space. Need more storage for book sale items. Arts area needs room to work. The library is used a lot and needs more usable space. 1500 square feet of open space upstairs needs to become a functional space.

The staff does a wonderful job in TOO LITTLE SPACE. The teeny spaces of information services, teen area, circulation, and outreach are cramped, stuffy and I can't imagine how they aren't on top of each other. Teen space idea is great, but as a retired 8th grade teacher, I know teens need space to operate. The circulation has far too many activities going on for the cramped space. Not only would more space be of importance to staff, but improve the flow of resources to the public.

It was not mentioned up front that it would be 99% about what's wrong with the building. In this sense, (the tour) is different than expected, but I was just a walk-in. I might have missed an advertisement. Pleasant guide!

A very interesting tour. Drew was very informative. We really realize you do need more room!

Thanks for the tour. Our guide (Ann?) was very open to questions.

Very interesting tour!

I enjoyed the behind-the-scenes look at how the library functions.

Great tour – thank you, Drew!

Thanks. I enjoyed the tour and found it educational.

Great job. I did not know it was so big.

Very unique tour and library. New to Ames.

Wonderful tour. I can see you certainly need more space.

Library staff here is excellent! Thanks to all for your hard work!! 😊

Great tour. Learned a great deal.

I was very impressed with the creative way the staff has made use of the space in the current building, but I also realize that a new building is much needed, as the staff is working in very overcrowded spaces now.

The tour was very friendly and informative. The staff is very helpful and friendly. It's a great place to study.

COOL! I like that there is (sic) lots of good books, movies and programs here. I really (like) the night-time movies, too. I like the books because I love to read!!

I am amazed at what you are able to accomplish with this facility. I see your/our need to f a much larger, efficient space. The computer lab is nice, but demand is high and we need more capacity.

I love this tour. I saw things I never saw.

Really cool systems. Maybe put in ramps instead of stairs.

Thank you. Good ideas. Eye-opening appreciation for the library process.

As a big city resident who moved to Ames, I was (and am) very pleased with the quality of the library.

This tour was pretty, pretty amazing. I liked it a lot dude. I would work here.

Please stay at this location. ☺ We need to help staff and patrons with more space sensibly arranged!!

Very helpful and informative.

We love the library. We also fully support your work.

Very helpful.

Nice, very personalized tour by Jerri.

I loved the comfy pillows.

Thank you for the tour. Very informative.

The tour was very useful to illuminate library expansion needs.

Definitely need more space. Great tour!

I learn(ed) more thing(s) about the library. Thanks.

Smaller hallways. Conveyer belts to move books around.

This building would be nice to keep as the library; to renovate and add on would be my choice. This was very interesting to see all that goes on to make the library run.

I think they have a great staff and excellent services.

The alley drop box was very interesting.

The tour was very informative and very well done. Space needs and constraints are obvious.

Very interesting and useful. Need more staff.

Thank you for letting us see the inner workings. It helps us to have a better understanding of the needs.

Where is the running water under the floor, roped off = bldg can't be preserved?

Other questions/comments that came up during tours:

- How many circs are returned daily?
- How much do ISU students use the library?
- Is there a custodian in the library all day?
- How often are groups turned away from meeting room use?
- Need more time on computers for school work.
- Complaint – spending \$30 million with an out-of-state architect.
- What will happen to the existing building? (If the person knew, that would easily make her decision.)
- Have the number of reference questions per year gone down?
- Are we over staffed or under staffed?
- How do we buy/withdraw books?
- What will you do with the woodwork from the old building? Will it be reused in any way?
- Patron said he'd gotten good help from both reference and computer lab (circ) staff. He added that the library had the things he needed: books and computers.
- We want you to have a new building so the senior center can be here. We take up a lot of room.
- Library needs more handicap parking spots.
- There should be access to the wheelchair near the entrance without someone having to ask.
- Do you have a circulation handout showing a route or floor plan?
- Which interior walls in 1904-40 section are load-bearing walls? Which could be removed to convert spaces?

- Is there always a problem heating/cooling the compute lab? It was so warm in there.
- Do you drain the sprinkler system periodically?
- Will the computers be in a more open area in a dream library?
- Will a new library address policies and enforcement of policies (i.e. food and drink everywhere)?
- Will there be a fee for the computer lab?
- Is there wireless for computers now?
- If computers are spread throughout the building, will that be a supervision problem?
- What goes on in the sprinkler room?
- What is the size of the collection now? What will it be in a new building?
- Will you add more staff in a larger building?
- How many people work in the library?
- Where do you keep archival material like microfilm?
- What do you do with withdrawn items?
- What kind of books would you buy if you had a bigger building – would you buy more copies?