Classics in Library and Information Science

H. Thomas Hickerson, Joan K. Lippincot T, and Leonora Crema, editors. ***Designing Libraries for the 21st Century.*** Association of College and Research Libraries; A division of the American Library Association Chicago, Illinois 2022. 463 pages.

As the writer of this column, I wish to say that a classic need not necessarily be an old time-tested book, gathering dust on a shelf. A new title can achieve the status of a classic owing to its scholarly content and vivid treatment.

Designing Libraries for the 21st Century is more dependent on library users' experience and involvement than on collections and service points. Distinct changes in library design have been directed by core changes in functions of academic libraries. Most of the changes are driven by dependence on digital tools and content, combination of technologies and research. Increased stress on social aspects of learning, inclusion and community engagement are the major factors of planning for these vibrant spaces.

There are 29 chapters grouped into the following eight sections.

- 21st-Century Academic Libraries in an Evolving Environment
- Aligning with the Institutional Vision



- Working with Architects, Designers, and Planners
- Key Issues in Planning
- Collaborations and Convergence
- Leadership, Organizational Change, and New Staff Roles
- Programming for Research, Learning, and Community
- Looking Ahead

The contributors of these chapters were the experts who participated in the conference by the same name as the title of this book.

Most of the standard books about library buildings, architecture, natural lighting and modular space deal with different physical facilities. But, this volume focuses on designing libraries in more holistic fashion. Now libraries are engaged in reimagining their roles and the spatial design through which this new vision will be distinctly noticed.

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