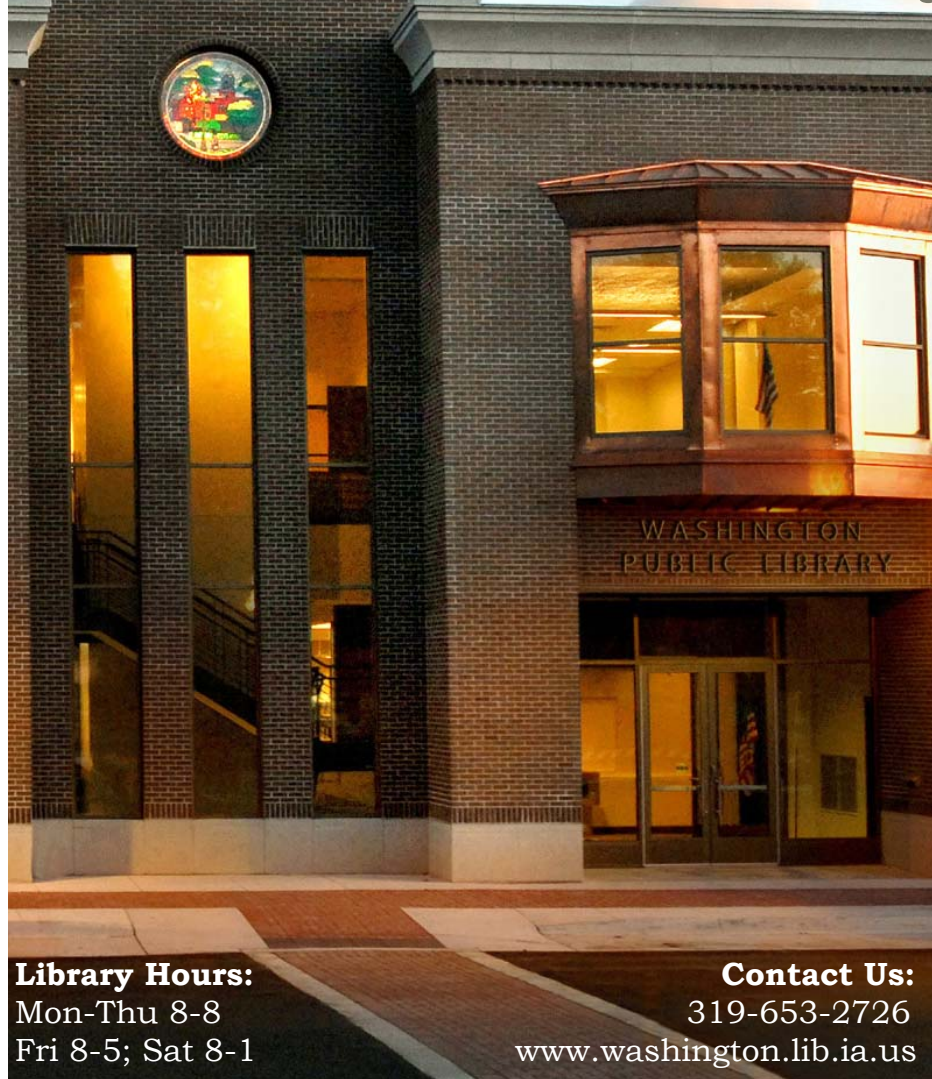


WELCOME

Washington Public Library



Library Hours:
Mon-Thu 8-8
Fri 8-5; Sat 8-1

Contact Us:
319-653-2726
www.washington.lib.ia.us

The mission of the Washington Free Public Library is:

to provide educational, cultural, and social enrichment to all residents of the City of Washington and surrounding areas;

to promote the freedom to read and to freely choose from all sources of information and knowledge which are provided in the library collection.

Visiting the Library Today:

Today the library enjoys increased use in many forms. Circulation has gone up, computer/internet use has increased as has use of our various meeting and study spaces. In addition, the library is much more accessible to the handicapped. We are also proud of the green emphasis throughout the building which emphasizes natural light, water efficiency, an underground heating/cooling system, and automated lighting to help save resources.



The library became LEED certified in 2011:

"The LEED® green building certification program is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of green buildings."

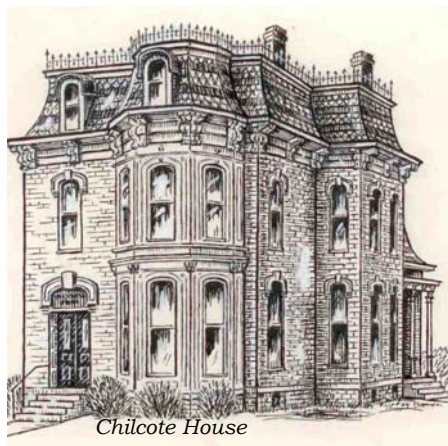
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In 2009 the library won a Best New Construction award from Main Street Iowa.

Our building has also been featured in the Corridor Business Journal and CBJ's 2012 Green Symposium.



The library continues to expand in various ways including our Spanish language collection, extended programming for all ages, and continuing pursuit of technological advances in circulation, materials, and information access. Our goal is to continue to serve this area of Washington County well into the 21st century!



Chilcote House

In 1901 Jane A. Chilcote bequeathed her house at 120 E. Main to the City of Washington to use as a public library. The Chilcote house was extensively remodeled to serve as the library. During the 40's and 50's the house had begun to seriously deteriorate. In 1952 the city undertook the construction of a new building on the site, funded in large part by major donations from Fort Sherman and Ralph Smith. The building built in 1952 was about 7,100 square feet and included an upstairs meeting room and a storage / research room. The gallery was remodeled in 1971.



Genealogy Room

The Washington Public Library was established in 1877 by a group of dedicated volunteers with a combination of private donations and a small public tax. The library was housed in the Stone Mill building and later in the old City Hall, now called the McCreedy building. Many of the original books came from General Hiram Scofield, a civil war general who lived in Washington and held one of the largest private libraries in the nation. The library still owns most of these books.

Alexander & Jane Chilcote



From 1952 until the early 90's, the building succeeded as a modern library; however as early as 1988 it was clear that more space was needed. The library had expanded children's programming, created a genealogical department, and begun to provide access to computer technology. In 1988 the Library Board initiated a fund raising campaign to construct an elevator. The project soon developed into a plan to expand the library 18 feet to the west to utilize the space that existed between the library and the Jones-Eden Funeral Home.

New Library Building Project Timeline

- 1997** Space needs assessment by George Lawson with state aid.
- 1998** Establishment of the WPL Foundation, a 501(c)3.
- 2001** \$123,725 released to Foundation from Nondas Richardson Trust.
- 2002** \$423,108 from estate of David Elder transferred to the Foundation.
- 2004**
 - Feb.** Space needs assessment and site analysis by Herb Stone.
 - May** Option to purchase secured for downtown site.
Initial structural analysis by Herb Stone.
 - Dec.** Library received okay to proceed from City Council.
Multiple community forums hosted regarding project ideas.
Fund raising feasibility study conducted.
Project presented to community organizations.
Entered into negotiations with owners.
Title secured to the buildings.
- 2005**
 - Feb.** City Council person appointed as liaison to the Foundation.
Proposals requested from several architectural firms.
OPN Architects from Cedar Rapids was selected.
Worked with OPN to develop a refined space needs report.
Proposals requested from fund raising consultants.
Coffey & Associates, Inc from Washington, IA selected.
 - Jun.** Hosted 2½ day public design charrette.
OPN and library staff worked to refine the floor plan.
 - Sep.** Released the results of the charrette—34,500 sq. ft. space.
- 2006** **Spring** Began the fundraising campaign for the project.
- 2007** **Nov.** \$1.1 million bond referendum passed.
- 2008** **Jun.** Construction began.
- 2009** **Oct.** The new library opened October 1, 2009.



Features of the New Library



Computer Space



Comfortable Reading Lounge



Young Adult Collection Area



Juvenile Section



Circulating Art



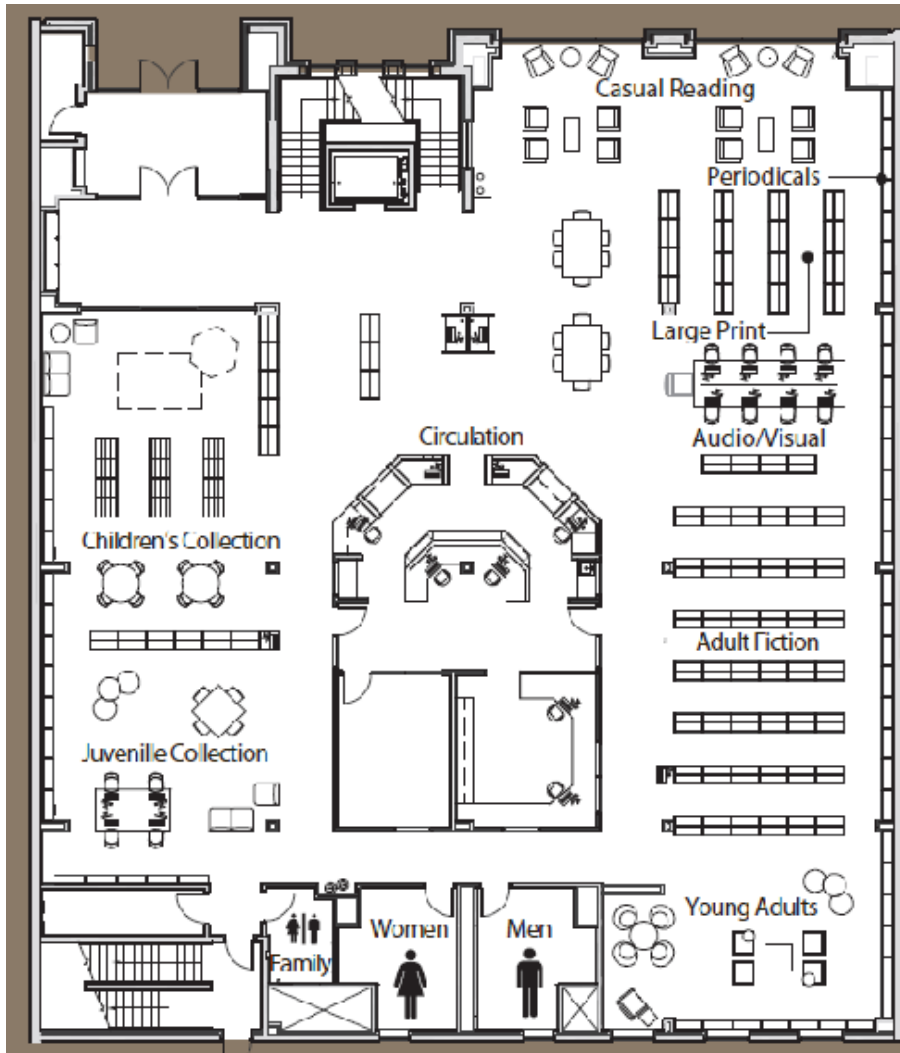
Children's Program Space



Non-Fiction Lounge



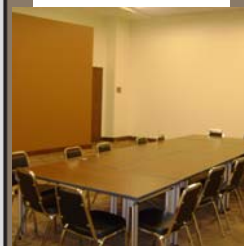
Study Rooms



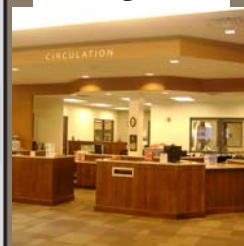
1st Floor



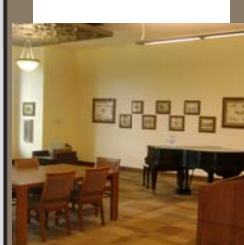
Children's Area



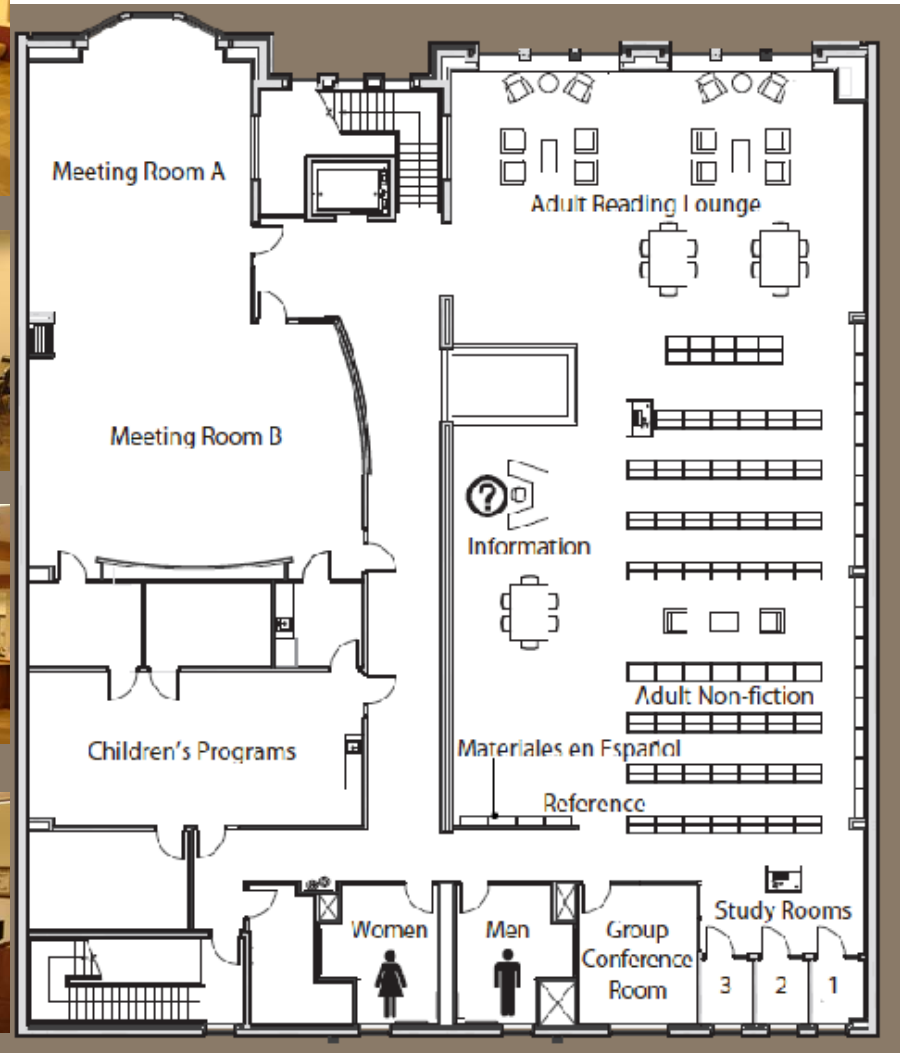
Meeting Rooms



Circulation



Grand Piano



2nd Floor



Thank you

To all our supporters and to the contributors to our building campaign... Thank you!

\$500,000 and above

The People of the City of Washington
Washington County Riverboat Foundation
Vision Iowa Community Attraction & Tourism Program

\$100,000 - \$499,999

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Rachel Nicola & Dave Stoufer
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In memory of Alice Zeck

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Jean Robertson
Linda Witthoft
Jolisa Weidner
LeAnn Kunz
Don Ruffenach
Jenisa Hanson

Nolan Breard - Vincent Peiffer - Marykaye Barnes - Derek Walker - McKenna Lebsack - Jackie Walsh - Angel Raymundo

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All members of the Library Board of Trustees and
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