Appendix J (New Facility Planning)

The construction of a new facility or expansion of an existing facility is a major milestone for any public library. When planning for construction the following guidelines should be followed.

1. Public library construction, expansion, and major renovation projects are planned by a team consisting of the board or members of the board of trustees, the library administrator and key staff, and a registered professional architect, preferably with experience in the design of libraries. A library building consultant may be utilized when there is a lack of library design experience on the design team.
2. The library, unless it is part of a home rule unit of government, must select an architect in compliance with the *Local Government Professional Services Selection Act* [50 ILCS 510/0.01 *et seq*.]
3. The library's attorney should review all contracts related to any construction project.
4. Space planning should be based on a twenty-year population projection (including probable annexation) and desired improvements in services.
5. The facility should provide the maximum possible flexibility for future changes in design, furnishings, and technology.
6. Access to the internet through data/Wi-Fi and power should be available throughout the facility.
7. All construction shall comply with federal, state, and local codes and regulations.
8. All areas of the library are designed to meet the floor-loading standard as defined by applicable codes. (Note that many existing buildings that were not designed as libraries cannot meet this requirement. Consult a building design professional whenever giving consideration to re-purposing any existing building for use as a library.)
9. Natural lighting should be used whenever possible. The availability and efficient use of natural light are an important consideration for both energy efficiency and human well-being. With proper planning, natural lighting can be incorporated into library design. All lighting, whether natural or artificial, should be designed to allow rearrangement of library furnishings.
10. Sustainable (Green) Design: Protecting our environment is only one of many compelling reasons to design and build sustainable buildings. Buildings designed in a sustainable manner can offer increased comfort for the occupants, healthier internal environments, lower energy costs, and can promote increased productivity. Libraries should take advantage of their unique educational role to be leaders in sustainable design.

    The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) provides a method to measure sustainability in the form of the "LEED" (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) program, aimed at both quantifying and promoting green design. Another measurement of sustainability is offered by the "Green Globes" program put forth by the Green Building Initiative.

    Each of these programs provides an objective system of measurement. Objective measurement plays a critical role in the process of designing and building sustainable buildings.
11. Technology and Library Design: Architects need to carefully integrate technology use into all aspects of the infrastructure planning for space, lighting, electrical, and HVAC. Data and power should be available throughout the facility.

12. *Serving Our Public 4.0* and other library design standards can provide a starting point for determining library design goals. It is important to note that in terms of library design, the industry is changing so quickly that published standards should be seen as a point of departure rather than a destination. A design team that is versed in the changing library environment and abreast of current trends and technology is your best asset.