Library Showcase:
Sacramento Public Library, Belle Cooledge Library – Interview with Lois Casement Ross

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LOCATION ADDRESS

5600 South Land Park Drive
Sacramento, CA 95822
http://www.saclibrary.org/Locations/Belle-Cooledge/

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

The Belle Cooledge Library serves the Land Park area of Sacramento, California. Originally established in 1958 at 5581 Freeport Boulevard, the library moved into its new building at the corner of Fruitridge and South Land Park Drive in 1992. The latest remodeling was in 2010, giving it an organic, spacious, and colorful look.

Branch Amenities include:

- 12,000 sq ft location
- On-site book store
- Meeting Room:
  ◦ Occupancy: 85

- ◦ Tables: 12
- ◦ Chairs:85
- ◦ Availability: Tuesday - Saturday, 8 am to 10 pm
- ◦ Built-in projection screen, podium
- Collection: 64,000
- Computing and workstations:
  - ◦ 18 Internet & MS Workstations
  - ◦ 2 Early Learning Workstations
  - ◦ 7 Online Catalog Workstations
- Photocopier/Printer
- Wi-Fi

The Belle Cooledge Library of the Sacramento Public Library system renovation created separate spaces for children, teens, and adults inside the 12,225 square foot building, where space is still hard to come by. The teen space features a flexible design that allows for social exchanges and gathering around technology resources.

Please describe the library renovation or new construction project to be featured in the American Libraries 2011 Library Design Showcase.

The Belle Cooledge Library was built in 1992 on the traditional library service model having both a reference desk and a circulation desk. The SPLA FMP 2007 – 2025 identifies 8 Guiding Principles for supporting SPL's mission for customer service and to meet new and changing community needs. Project priorities included providing an enhanced children's space, reconfiguration of the adult and teen spaces, and consolidation of the customer service point. Elements incorporated creating a distinct family friendly children's space that is welcoming and inviting, creating a TEENS@ space, creating a browsing area, increased capacity for technology and self service, reconfiguration of the main public floor to support the new Model of Service and reconfiguration of shelving to increase visibility to all areas of the branch.

Why was the project needed?

The data and power capacity for staff and customers in 1992 was inadequate to meet the needs of our customers or staff today. Emphasis has shifted from huge collections to a community gathering space and online resources. Creating unique spaces for functions and separations for user groups recognizes the needs of the diverse community using this branch.

How did technology use or demand for technology influence the space planning for the new/ renovated library?

Space planning and design of the furniture were driven by technology. Electrical capacity for increased demand for powering more computers, laptops, gaming equipment, early learning computers for young children, and other electronics that our customers use necessitated a new circuit in the electrical panel, and slab cuts to bring electrical and data to the new teen space, computer center, and children's computer area.

The new layout of the branch reflects technology use by age groups promoting a safe and comfortable environment for all customers–children's computers in the children's area, teen computers in the teen area, etc.

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