

Belmont Public Library

Belmont, Massachusetts
2016—2020 Long Range Plan





INTRODUCTION

Every five years, the library creates a new long range plan, focused on programs and services as we continue to evolve. We strive to seek feedback and ideas from the community in this process. As part of this plan the library includes a mission, vision, values, goals and actions. The result serves as a guide for the library team as they enhance and expand library services.

Since its inception in 1868, the library remains a source of joy for Belmont's citizens. Our library endures the test of time, adapting, continuously evolving, serving the changes in education, technology, and community needs.

The Belmont Public Library offers all citizens access to books, magazines, films, music, electronic resources, remarkable programs, services, educational opportunities, and so very much more.

“ Bad Libraries build collections, good libraries build services, great libraries build communities.

-R. David Lankes



OUR MISSION

The Belmont Public Library, is guided by the past and focused on the future. Its mission is to enrich the lives of the community by empowering its citizens' personal, educational and professional growth. The library is dedicated to advancing literacy and fostering life-long learning.

Vision Statement

The Belmont Public Library aims to provide a center for information and discovery through innovative programming, robust collections, and responsive services. The Library is a place for Belmont to learn, share, and create.

Core Values

- Knowledgeable staff and great service
- Intellectual freedom and access to knowledge for all.
- Current and historical digital collections.
- Technology and information literacy training.
- Spaces for study, collaboration and innovation.
- A place where Belmont comes to explore, learn and discover.

...founded on the 4 I'S

INFORMATION ∞ **EXPLORING**

Knowledge, Resources, and Access: All Formats For All Ages

INSTRUCTION ∞ **LEARNING & ENRICHING**

Inspiring Life-Long Learners Through Literacy & Technology

INTERACTION ∞ **COMMUNITY BUILDING**

Partnering With The Community: A Library Without Walls

INNOVATION ∞ **CREATING & DREAMING**

Today's Librarians & Tomorrow's Technology: Educating & Empowering



INFORMATION

EXPLORING

Knowledge, Resources, and Access: All Formats For All Ages

Current and Ongoing

- Publicize library services and programs through promotion in print and online.
- Continue to offer educational programming for patrons aged 0-99.
- Continue to promote local authors.

New Goals and Ideas

- Create themed reading lists for children, teens and adults.
- Digitize historic materials including yearbooks and newspapers.
- Develop strategies to inform patrons when our system changes or is upgraded by the Minuteman Library Network.
- Continue to expand the number of (and quality of) Overdrive Advantage titles.

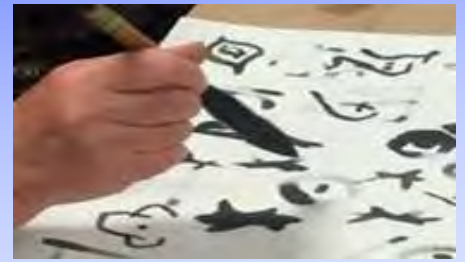
- Make technology training opportunities more visible to the public.
- Expand book club activities for all ages, both online and in the library. Offer support to these groups to improve patron experience.
- Share relevant news stories, surveys, and studies focused on libraries with our patrons via our website and social media.

“ **When I got my library card, that’s when my life began.**

Rita Mae Brown

”





INSTRUCTION

LEARNING & ENRICHING

Inspiring Life-Long Learners Through Literacy & Technology

Current and Ongoing

- Identify emerging technologies and provide hands on training and workshops for the public.
- Identify local experts to offer educational lectures.
- Continue to offer more joint educational programs with other Town Departments and organizations. Topics to include: cooking, technology, digital citizenship, genealogy, and local history.

New Goals and Ideas

- Increase offerings of database and applications training for patrons, both 1-on-1 and in a classroom format.
- Survey adult users for educational needs and promote other continuing education opportunities in Belmont.
- Create more opportunities for technology training for seniors.

- Incorporate web tutorials and instructional videos to cover social media, technology, and databases offered through the Library. Make these videos available on Library website.
- Incorporate more programming and online resources to support job seekers. Focus on job searching, resume writing, presentation skills and online professional resources.
- Create a Tech Petting Zoo to teach patrons about different technologies, namely tablets and devices.
- Expand on ESL (English As A Second Language) opportunities.
- Explore opportunities for more STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) discussions and programming.

“ I ransack public libraries and find them full of sunk treasure. ”

Virginia Woolf





INTERACTION

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Partnering With The Community: A Library Without Walls.

Current and Ongoing

- Host “One Book One Belmont” programs in 2016, 2018 and beyond.
- Increase cross generational programming, bringing together people of all ages.
- Enhance relationship with the Belmont School Department. Seek opportunities for additional collaboration with administration, school committee, teachers, and librarians.
- Showcase library resources and services at town events. Offer remote checkouts when possible.

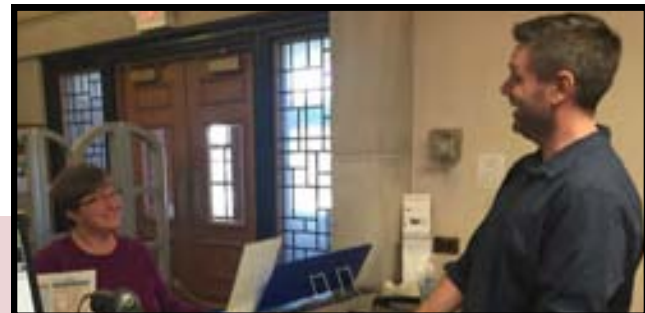
New Goals and Ideas

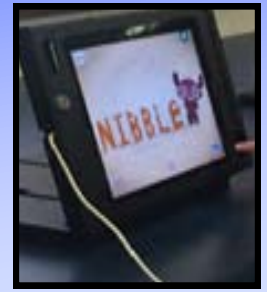
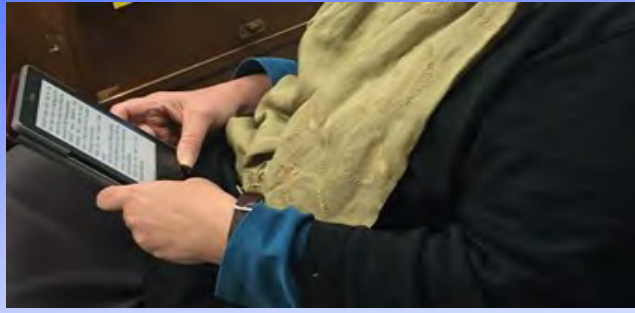
- Create an additional Children's Librarian position with the goal of having more opportunities to visit the schools, extend Children's Room hours, and increase programming.
- Explore opportunities for more quiet study spaces, dedicated areas for Children's programming and makerspaces.
- Offer at least two high school programs annually.

- Offer at least two after hours events for different age groups annually.
- Host a volunteer /staff appreciation event.
- Offer at least two joint programs with area businesses annually.
- Increase annual school visits by library staff, focusing on summer reading and curriculum needs.
- Offer coffee hour programming monthly: social gathering opportunities for patrons to interact with one another, communicate with staff and enjoy coffee and refreshments.
- Expand Sunday hours.
- Explore creating new spaces for informal groups such as knitting and book clubs to use without needing to schedule in advance.

“Google can bring you back 100,000 answers, a librarian can bring you back the right one.”

Neil Gaiman





INNOVATION

CREATING & DREAMING

Today's Librarians & Tomorrow's Technology: Educating & Empowering

Current and Ongoing

- Promote program to deliver materials to homebound patrons.
- Continue to offer opportunities to rearrange space to offer maximum usability of the library to patrons.
- Explore opportunities to offer more comfortable seating spaces in the library.

New Goals and Ideas

- Offer at least two programs outdoors on library grounds.
- Engage a Teen Advisory Board to help run programs and develop the Teen Room to their liking.
- Offer additional support to business professionals.

- Create spontaneous programming options for children offering board games, crafts, puzzles, and movies for programming on the fly.
- Reconfigure the reference space to be more inviting and comfortable.
- Offer library tours for new patrons.
- Circulate tablets and laptops. Focus on future technology for circulation.
- Explore opportunities to offer a makerspace.
- Create a new website.
- Seek funding to create new circulating collections such as personal technology, power tools, seeds, microscopes and science backpacks.
- Support the School Department and Belmont Media Center in publicizing their offerings focused on STEM/STEAM.

“ Why buy a book when you can join a library? -Ricky Gervais ”





BELMONT

The Town Of Homes (IDEAS FROM YOU)

Current and Ongoing

- Promote program to deliver materials to homebound patrons.
- Provide more topic based programming.
- Increase patron opportunities for instruction focused on Databases, both on the website and 1-on-1.

New Goals and Ideas

- Explore collaboration with Belmont Media Center.
- Re-establish “The Bugle” newsletter both in print and with a web presence.
- Offer more open hours, specifically on Sundays and during the summer.
- Survey patrons more often to hear feedback on day-to-day experiences.
- Explore opportunities to expand Chinese language collection.
- Create a welcome letter from the Library for all new residents.

More

- Offer more technology training opportunities.
- Offer patrons more checkouts through Hoopla.
- Offer more clubs at the Library.
- Explore opportunities to offer more space for tutors.
- Offer more promotion of award winning titles available to patrons.
- Offer more circulating technology collections.
- Offer more information about programming options.
- Offer more digitized materials on website.
- Host more cultural programs in the evening.

What in the world would we do without Libraries?

Katharine Hepburn



PLANNING PROCESS

The Board of Library Trustees sought to develop a new five-year Long Range Plan for the Belmont Public Library, required by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. The plan focuses on services, programming, community outreach, and life-long learning.

The work of the Belmont Public Library's Long Range Planning Committee was to gather ideas, suggestions, concerns, and action items. The committee ran three meetings, followed by an open public forum. The open public forum welcomed the thoughts and contributions of the members of the Belmont community, focused on the next five years, while looking forward to the next 50.

PARTICIPANTS

We wish to extend our gratitude and appreciation to the members of the Belmont Public Library Long Range Planning Committee. Our thanks also go to the entire community for their attention and willingness to participate. We strive to provide the best experience possible to the people of Belmont. With this plan we'll be able to focus our efforts over the these next five years, and years to come.

Community Participants

Pat Brusch
David Chase
Zhanna Davidovitz
Laurie Graham
Nava Niv-Vogel
Jeri Weiss

Trustees

Elaine Alligood
Sarah Phillips
Mary-Alice Wistman

Friends of The Library

Nancy Dignan, President

Library Director

Peter J. Struzziero

Belmont Public Library Staff

Lisa Cassidy
Circulation Supervisor

Liz Fraser
Childrens Services Coordinator

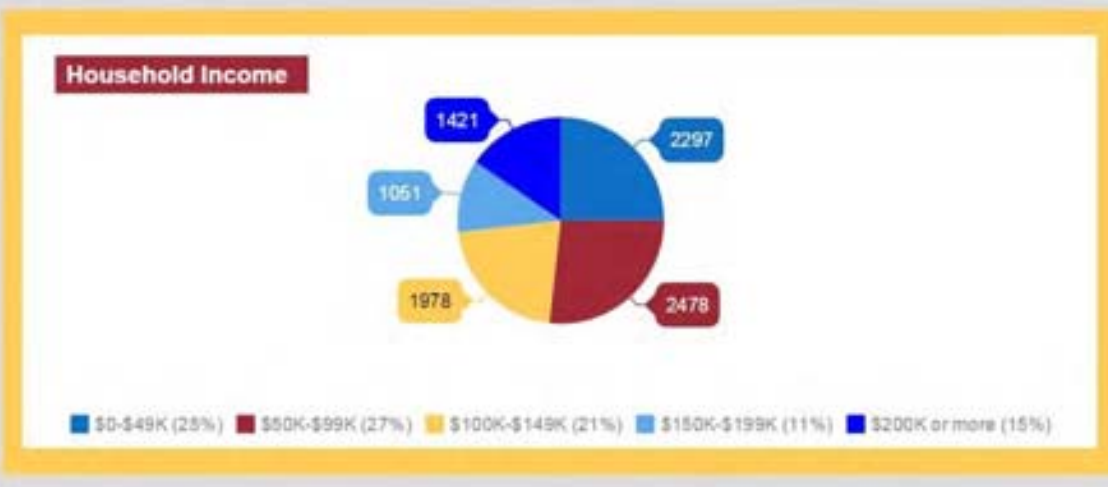
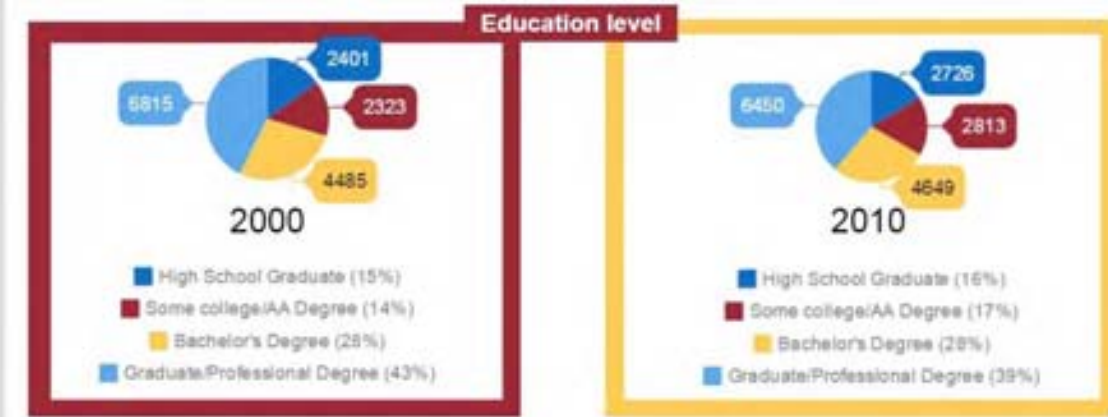
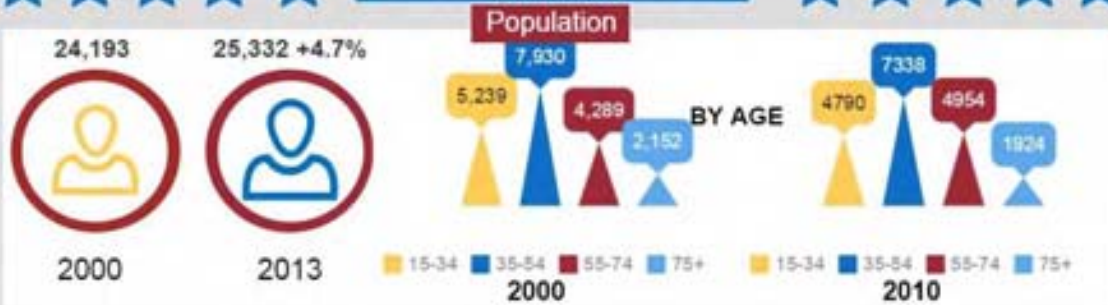
Ellen Girouard
Technology Librarian

Emily Reardon
Public Services Coordinator

BELMONT FACTS & FIGURES SNAPSHOT

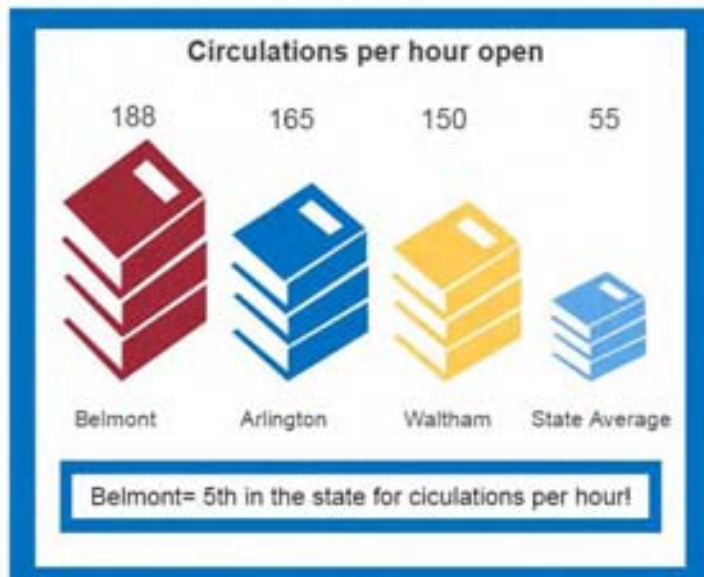
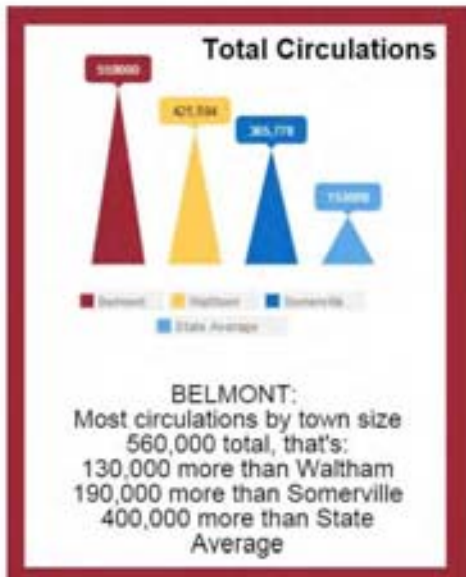
BELMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY

OUR TOWN AT A GLANCE*



LIBRARY SERVICES SNAPSHOT

Past / Present / Future



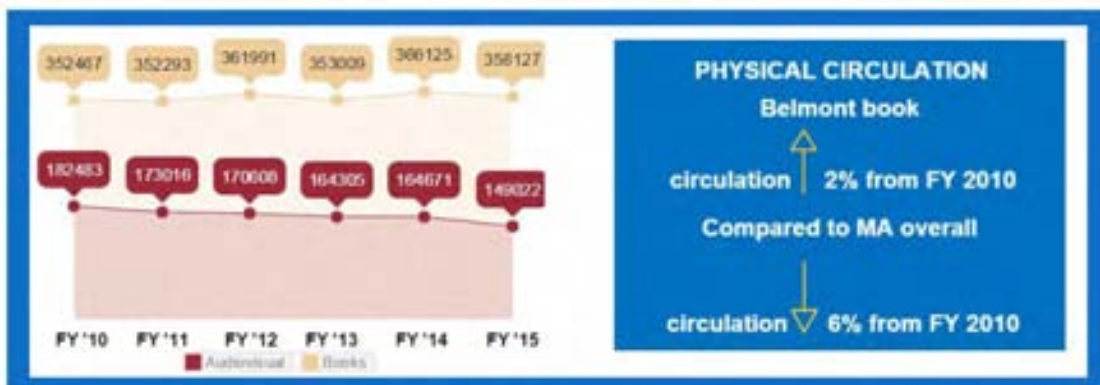
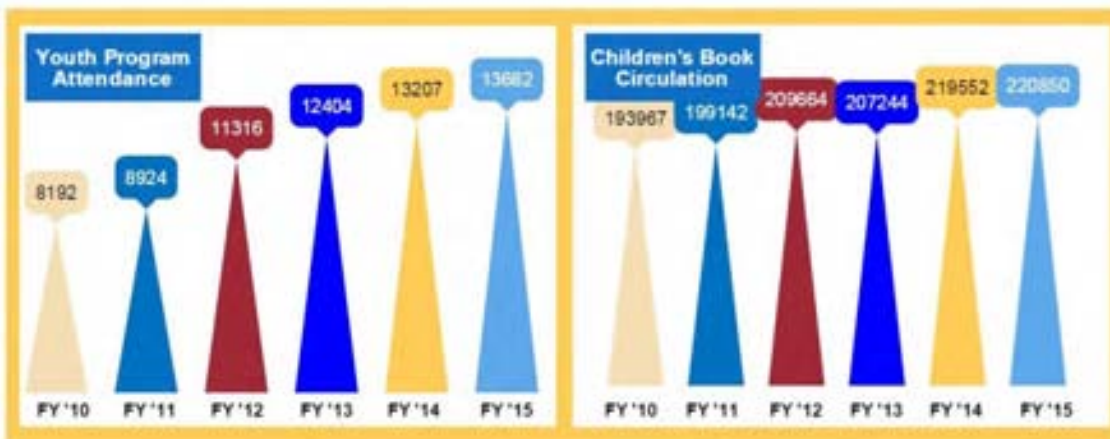
HOW WE'VE IMPROVED*



LIBRARY SERVICES SNAPSHOT

Past / Present / Future

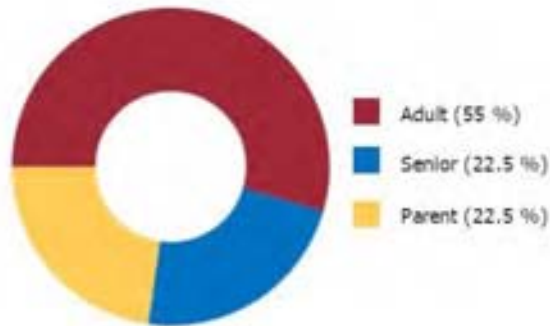
★★★★★ HOW WE'VE IMPROVED* ★★★★★



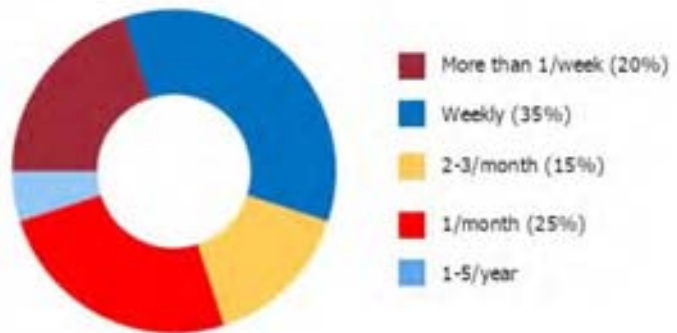
LIBRARY SURVEY RESULTS

Survey Results*

Please state your user type:



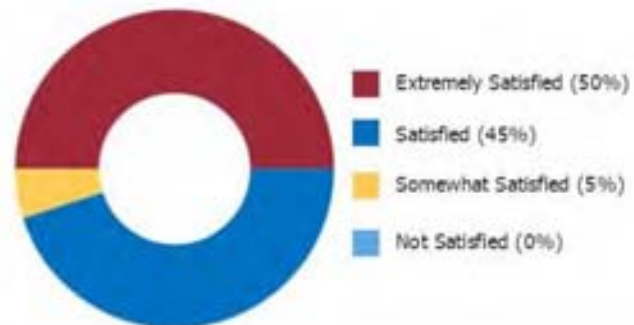
On Average, how often do you visit the Library?



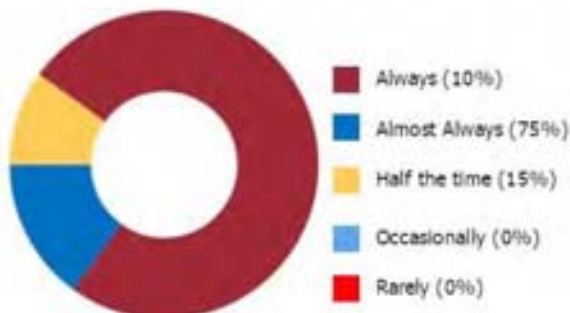
What is your main reason for visiting the Library?



Overall, how satisfied are you with the programs and services offered at the Library?



How often do you find what you are looking for at the Library?



How do you find information about the Library?

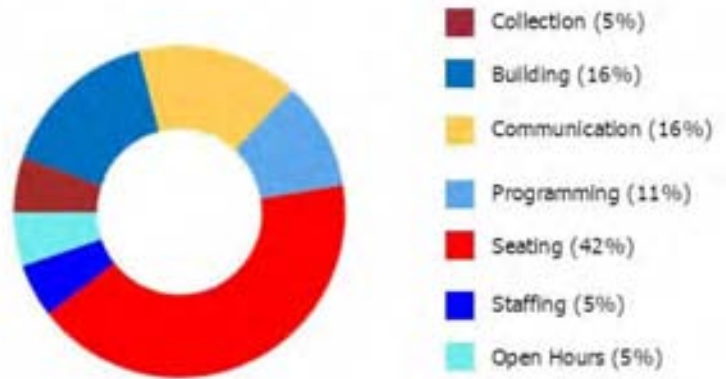


LIBRARY SURVEY RESULTS

What service would you like to see expanded at the Library?



What is one thing you would change or improve about the Library?



Do you use any of the following services?

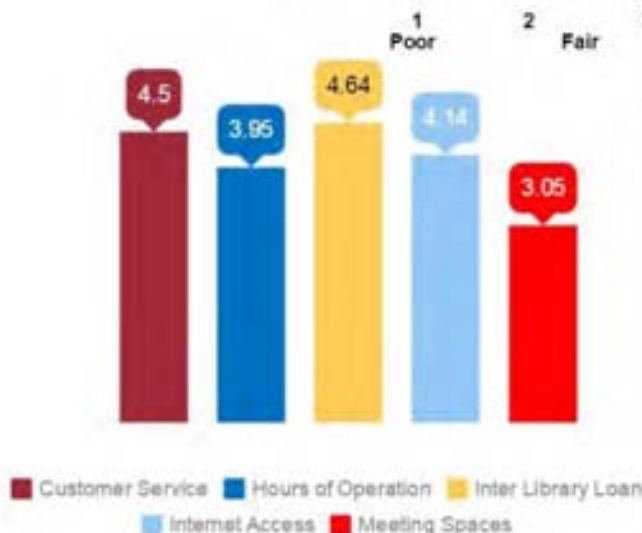
1 Rarely 2 Occasionally 3 Half-time 4 Almost Always 5 Always



As we think to the future, what are 2 or 3 goals the Library should be working toward?



Please rate the following services:



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* Belmont Public Library, Long Range Planning Survey, created by Peter Struzziero, Belmont Public Library Director, Nov. 15, 2015