

Preliminary list of potentially lasting influences of the pandemic on library infrastructure, architecture and furniture (08.04.20 MBLC-Architect Conference on Pandemic's Impact and Influence on Libraries)

- Anything we spent a bunch of capital and/or operating \$\$ on during the pandemic
- Continue curbside service, delivering laptops and hotspots as well as traditional collections (and configuring back-of-house space and equipment to support these services) Digital magazines as well – Per the REALM Project, magazine pages showed a trace amount of virus after four days.
- Enhanced WiFi to reach parking lots and other outdoor spaces.
- Self-service after-hours holds equipment and spaces
- Increased self-service in general, including circulating technology
- On-line card registration ILO in-person at a service desk
- Online study and meeting room reservation systems
- Pivoting to digital content books and programs and events (including the AV and IT equipment to make it work)
- Future in-person programs will have a virtual version as well
- Cooperative participation in funding and developing online programs and events
- High and low tech virtual homework help
- Virtual Meeting Rooms
- Much library admin work can be done effectively remotely. Residential bandwidth can be an obstacle. Staggered work shifts & break times.
- Reworked collaborative staff work environments
- Increased space allocations for staff workrooms
- Design for using library space as interim emergency communications center, cooling center, heating center, etc.
- Entry and exit people counters to determine real-time occupancy.
- Smaller service points (sized for 1 staff position)
- Patron furniture designed to make one person-sized spaces
- High performance upholstery that can be easily sanitized – learn from the healthcare industry furnishings design
- Cleanable building finishes everywhere – probably less carpet.
- Increase use of small mobile partitions so patrons can configure spaces separations that meet their personal expectations
- Translucent separations built in to any stationary computer workstations
- Distributed public hand cleaning stations – outside of restrooms
- Negative pressure restrooms, and other restroom changes (touch free entrance and fixtures, paper instead of electric hand dryers, etc.)
- Full toilet seats to close before flushing
- Separations between sinks or change to single stall restrooms (expensive for existing buildings)
- (Nearly) Full height stalls in multi-stall restrooms (again – expensive)
- HVAC upgrades for additional fresh air and indoor air quality in general (e.g. MERV 13 filtration, higher % outdoor air).
- Air purification/sanitation (UV or ionization)
- Operable windows (altho' ASRAE recommends conditioned air over outside air)
- Improved connections (visual and physical) to attractive and useful outdoor spaces, including outdoor spaces that parallel functions accommodated indoors. Screened porches, courtyards, as well as entry plazas.
- Flexibility - and reversibility - remain fundamental
- Automated entrances - and other - doors throughout.

We will likely see additional pandemics or localized outbreaks in the future and need to be able to “flip the switch” and revert to virus protection schemes.