



**THE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**
of Cincinnati
and
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Press Release

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Transforming the Main Library

Library Services for the 21st Century



The current Films & Recordings Department has been cleared out and consolidated with the Fiction Department in preparation for re-carpeting. These two departments will merge into a new Popular Library as part of ML/21.

The Main Library of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County is starting to undergo a major transformation—not only physically in how it looks and where things are located but more importantly how it works in order to better meet the rapidly changing needs of customers. The exciting and different new service model – known as ML/21 or Main Library in the 21st Century – is customer-focused, emphasizes convenience, and increases access to a broad spectrum of technology.

Construction is set to start after Labor Day and conclude in early February. Through careful planning, the Main Library will remain open during this whole

process. Portions of the Library will be closed during some building phases and collections will be shifted, but the materials will still be available for customers. Construction updates will be available on the Library's website and on display boards at the Library entrances. Staff will be also on hand to assist customers.

What will the Library be like when the project is complete?

Nearly the entire public area will be re-carpeted—a huge undertaking in itself. The new Main Library will be more colorful and more visually compelling with a great deal of variation in color and design in the carpet as well as more lively paint colors. The new service model will be more intuitive and easier for customers to use with many departments and areas defined by their functions (Technology Center, Homework Central, Information & Reference), formats (Magazines & Newspapers), targeted audiences (Teen Center), or very specific subject matter (Job Resource Center, Grant Resource Center, Genealogy & Local History). The adult non-fiction collection on the public floor will be in Dewey order starting with the 001s on the second floor and ending with the 990s on the third floor. Customers will have more self-service options with self-check and self-service holds, as well as fine & fee payment by credit card, but they will also have easier access to staff through service model changes.



Library Maintenance Mechanics Jeff Mussman (left) and Joe Hauer moving office equipment to make way for ML/21.

✓ To learn more visit www.cincinnatiLibrary.org.