



Expanded Services in Southern Boone



Top: On November 17, 2012 more than 350 community members gathered to help move items into the new library building before the official opening on the following Monday. Middle: For the first time, the library has a meeting room, used for library programs and available to nonprofit groups. Bottom: This unique basket "wall" creates a semi-private space for studying, reading or informal meetings.

After months of planning, the Southern Boone County Public Library moved to a great new space in 2012. From a former doctor's office of 3,335 square feet, the library in Ashland moved to a new, leased building with 6,500 square feet on Main Street next to the middle school. We officially opened November 19, 2012.

The new building allows us to offer much more to the people of our service area, with room for more items to borrow, more public-access computers and a meeting room for library programs as well as use by other community groups. We contracted with the same firm that designed the Columbia Public Library, Holzman Moss Bottino Architects, for the interior design work.

The board of trustees and library staff wanted to personalize the new library by finding Mid-Missouri vendors and products on this project, and we found several that fit our budget.

- Developer Gerald McKinney, of McKinney Properties, hired architects from Columbia to design the building exterior.
- Columbia-based Timberline Custom Cabinets built most of the interior furnishings.
- Native oak was used for the bookshelves, tabletops and computer tables.
- The table legs and check-out desk top are made of recycled materials fabricated by Yemm and Hart, based in Marquand, MO.
- Special edition library cards for donors are from a company in St. Peters, MO.
- The whale lounge chairs came from a company in Farmington, MO.

The Friends of the Southern Boone County Public Library also played an active role in making the new library a reality, spearheading a "Raise the Top Shelf" fundraising campaign to help pay for the new furnishings and bookcases.

Despite an out-of-town state soccer championship game happening the same day, a huge number of people came out for our moving-day book brigade. More than 350 Southern Boone Countians formed a line from the old building to the new to pass book-filled bags from person to person up the street. One patron told us, "We love, love, LOVE our new library here in Southern Boone! Such a beautiful, warm and welcoming space...!!!"



A self-service check-out machine is new to the Southern Boone County Public Library.

	Before	After
Computers	4 +1 for kids	8 +2 for kids
Tables	4 +18 chairs	10 +30 chairs
Lounge Seating	3 chairs	14 chairs, 2 sofas, 6 whale chairs
Self-check machine	No	Yes
Meeting Room	No	Yes
Exterior book drop	Walk-up	Drive-up
Bike Rack	No	Yes



PHOTO MURAL

After the first full year being in the new Southern Boone County Public Library building, we've seen a 6% increase in circulation and 151 community meetings held in the new meeting room.

The new building got finishing touches in 2013, including a mural of historic photos that wraps around the interior walls, an idea proposed by Nestor Bottino with Holzman Moss Bottino Architecture. These 80 historic images, many supplied by the Southern Boone County Historical Society, represent over 100 years of life in the southern Boone County area. Library manager Karen Neely reports that residents view it as a communal photo album and that it's become a destination for people attending reunions. With so many visitors sharing their stories, we decided to formalize the collection of these remembrances during the new facility's one-year anniversary celebration on November 17. Many people contributed their memories sparked by the photos.

At the same event, we celebrated the completion of the Friends of the Library's "Raise the Top Shelf" fundraising campaign that helped pay for bookshelves, a seating area and a book sale cart. An engraved wooden art piece installed in the library vestibule honors donors who contributed to the campaign.



Southern Boone County Public Library

109 N. Main, Ashland • (573) 657-7378

Daniel Boone Regional Library • www.dbrl.org