

The Executive Overview

Preliminary Insights from Core team

It is important to start the planning process with a clear picture of the dynamics at play across Johnson County. JCPL is one of many organizations in the County that hopes to attract the attention of residents, the approval of decision makers who represent taxpayers and the goodwill of potential community partners. It is important to JCPL to deliver value to taxpayers, to address the needs of patrons and to have the respect of library professionals across the state.

The Core team learned a great deal while sharing their findings across the three teams. While the details can be explored later, there are a few major observations that should be made now. These shifts are changing the underlying assumptions of planning.

1. Johnson County's growth rate will continue to increase which has tax and service implications.
2. There are two areas of large projected growth which is being triggered by the planned construction of new ramps on interstate highways I69 and I65.
3. The uncertain economy and higher fuel costs are changing the habits of patrons, library staff, and county decision makers
4. The State of Indiana has expectation for libraries to assist citizens to use e-government procedures.
5. Patrons are adapting well to automated/computerized libraries and to e products. The computer age is increasing library use, not slowing it down as was predicted by some. The formats are just different.
6. The professional skills required of library staff are growing as there is more to know about information literacy -- from helping adults with computerized searches to supporting parents and children with new reading and study methods taught in the schools.
7. There are proportionally more active seniors in the County than might be expected. They have high expectations for library service and also make great volunteers with the ability to perform more complex tasks than historically given to volunteers.

These seven insights are merely an introduction to what is new and challenging. Each of these insights is the product of several trends that merge to create a bolder impact. High Energy Planningsm begins by

recognizing where the natural energy of the environment is flowing. Read on and experience your own insights. Then join in the process of designing an approach to library service that will meet the emerging needs of Johnson County.