

I thought I would share with you some observations I've made comparing our evolving hybrid-library in Jeffersonville to larger municipal libraries I previously worked for in another state.

The most impactful area of growth for the Varnum Memorial Library would be an addition of space. Our lovely library was built with just two rooms to be used by the public, and the growth Cambridge has experienced can no longer be accommodated by our building space.

Most pressing are the needs for work-spaces for individuals who daily rely on the Varnum's free wi-fi as well as room for programming. Additionally, as our community's demographics evolve, we are in crucial need of space to house more materials that speak to a wider audience than general adult fiction and young children's picture books. Our Young Adults are consistently squeezed into whatever spare corner we can find, and our attempts to grow our non-fiction offerings are restricted.

As the nature of work and how families are structured in their day evolve with the lessons of the pandemic, Vermont libraries play a critical role in addressing and aiding these needs. So many people work a hybrid-schedule or work from home, and the internet is required. The Varnum offers the fastest wi-fi in the area and we consistently have community members parked outside the building working in their cars because of lack of space within the building. Additionally, we have a greater need for programming with young families, senior citizens and school-aged children but due to lack of space, we are severely restricted as we try to balance what is safe for the staff and the public. If we had more room, we could offer so much more to the community.

Thank you for taking time to ask, and thank you for being an advocate for all the communities that our libraries serve.

Warmly,

Aurora River (she, her)  
Librarian  
Varnum Memorial Library  
194 Main Street  
Jeffersonville, VT 05464  
802.644.2117  
[aurorariver.varnum@gmail.com](mailto:aurorariver.varnum@gmail.com)