

DRAFT

Planning Assumptions

Reviewed by Library Commission 9/6/06

The following assumptions have been used in the Boulder Public Library's master planning process:

- Libraries will continue to bring economic and quality of life value to communities by providing free and equal access to information, serving the needs of businesses, families, individuals and diverse populations. The ways in which the information is presented and the services provided will change dramatically.
- Library services for the future need to reflect the changing demographics of the community, including a growing percentage of seniors and those whose first language is not English. Trends indicate that a significant percentage of community members will continue to be below the poverty line, with a widening gap between the affluent and low income.
- Information technologies will continue to evolve at a very rapid pace.
 - The amount and types of information available online will continue to grow rapidly.
 - Information technology hardware will continue to become obsolete very quickly.
 - BPL will need to support multiple technologies concurrently.
 - Changes will be needed within existing facilities to accommodate technological changes and how patrons utilize technology.
- The cost of electronic resources (databases, software, etc.) will become an increasingly larger percentage of libraries' budgets.
- Generations growing up with computers and search engines like Google will have expectations for accessing information quickly, easily and in a variety of ways that meet their specific needs.
- The ability to adapt rapidly to ongoing change will be critical for continued success.
- The need for staff who are flexible, well-trained and technologically-current will continue to grow.
- Given the city's current financial structure and sources of revenues, city funding for the Library is not expected to increase significantly in the near-term.
- The planning horizon for this master plan is 15 – 20 years. Given the rapidly changing environment for the delivery of library services, the Plan will be reviewed, and updated as needed, every five years.