

Schumacher Library

Transitions and changes for 2024





We can all agree...

- ♥ Libraries are loved
- ♥ Change can be hard
- ♥ Working together, and with a diversity of perspectives and input, leads to positive change



Why did an assessment of the library begin?

- Ongoing challenge to match the library hours with general garden hours
- The physical space is in high demand for many user groups
- Olbrich's 2023-2025 strategic plan outlined an assessment of all information services at Olbrich



Main Objectives:

- ♥ Unify visitor center resources and a guests' experience in the space
- ♥ Identify current space use
- ♥ Identify service gaps and needs



Main Learnings:

- Well-loved family services have outgrown the physical library space
- Guests love learning and Olbrich needs space to share resources
- A small percentage of daily guests visit the Schumacher Library
- In Library use is high, but circulation of the library's collection is low



Services being retired:

- × Circulation of the collection
- × Seed Library
- × Used Book Cart
- × Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library



Services offered in the new guest resource center:

- ✓ Magazines
- ✓ Respite area
- ✓ General answer service
- ✓ A smaller non-circulating collection
- ✓ Loanable visit enhancements like plant ID guides, audio tour devices, family adventure packs, etc.
- ✓ Translation services
- ✓ A space for thematic connections

Services being maintained in other areas:



- ✓ Books for youth and families
- ✓ Activities for youth and families
- ✓ Archives
- ✓ Special collections
- ✓ A non-circulating collection for staff and program use