



You have probably seen the large poster boards in all of your branches with pictures of all different kinds of libraries on them. These *comment boards* are all part of the Facilities Master Plan project now in progress in Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties. As part of WMRL's Strategic Plan - objective 1.4 - "By June 2018, publish a Facilities Master Plan for member libraries," WMRL contracted with HBM Architects to create a document that examines each library branch in all three counties and creates a project priority list based on condition and function criteria. HBM also will make specific recommendations for each location, for example, add a Learn-Play-Grow section to the children's area, add more comfortable seating, or reconfigure the public service desk to create a better workflow. In order to qualify for state capital grant funding, each library system needs to have a facilities master plan in place. When this study is complete all three counties will have their own plan, with their own list of priorities for future projects. Each will be able to refer to their plan when applying for capital funding from the state and from the county. Fortunately, WMRL was able to fund this project with a LSTA grant from the Maryland State Library. You will notice that this plan wasn't due to be completed for almost another year, but the grant required that it be completed by September 30th so it got fast-tracked. If you have any questions about the plan or would like to share a comment, please contact me or your director anytime.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Elizabeth