

Branch Restructuring FAQs

Q: When will the changes go into effect?

A: We anticipate new schedules will go into effect as of September 1st.

Q: What will happen to the closed branches?

A: Leased space will not be renewed; other properties are City-owned and we'll be working with the City to transition them back to City management.

Q: Will any staff be laid off?

A: No.

Q: Why my branch?

A: The following criteria were considered and discussed in the process of determining what branches would be affected:

- » Proximity to other library branches and equitably dispersed, geographically, throughout the City
- » Need—community demographics, size of community served, transportation options
- » Proximity to alternative community and educational services
- » Usage (visits, circulation, program attendance)
- » Size of facility
- » Facility amenities (meeting room, technology areas)
- » Need for renovation/capital investment

Q: What were key factors in the decision making process?

A: We modeled three different consolidation scenarios: 10 branches (current number) vs. eight vs. six vs. three to determine which scenario would enable us to provide the optimal levels of:

- » enhanced hours and services,
- » accessibility, and
- » sustainability for the foreseeable future.

Q: Was this communicated to the public?

A: Yes; we met with and gave presentations about the preliminary strategic plan and consolidation scenarios to a number of audiences (listed below) in this process to solicit feedback and answer any questions.

- » The Mayor's office and City Council
- » Community organization leaders
- » Hartford 2000



- » Board of Education leadership
- » Metro Hartford Alliance
- » HPL Corporators
- » Community Public Forums held at
 - Albany Branch
 - Dwight Branch

Q: How does HPL compare with other urban libraries in CT and in the United States?

A: Compared to the median of 117 libraries in mid-sized cities nationwide, HPL stands out for:

- » Having more locations
- » Smaller size of locations
- » Spreading resources more thinly across locations
- » More visitors
- » More programs
- » More computer use

HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY (2014) 2014 MEDIAN MID-SIZED CITY

Service population	125,017	179,703
Outlets	10	5
Outlets per 100K residents	8.0	2.8
Square feet per branch	3,883	10,046
Visits per capita	6.7	4.2
Computer use per capita	1.2	0.96
Circulation per capita	4.3	5.9
Total programs	7,070	1,973

