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Gwinnett County Library System Begins Construction of First 'Green' Facility

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- Don't forget about the real beneficiaries of the project during the process: your students. You might not like many, or any, of the ideas they suggest, but if the changes will improve their learning experience, consider them.
- Learn from other libraries. The knowledge they share isn't limited to only their users. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Many are eager to share what they know.
- Keep as many tasks as possible in-house. Unless you're a large university with a multimillion-dollar budget, you can't afford to outsource everything. Many staff members don't mind showing they are experts at something non-library-related.

There is no doubt that this space filled a need in our library and enhanced our students' learning experience. This process has also made an impact on how our staff thinks about customer service, reminding us that we are here because the students are here. Most importantly, we learned that if you look to your users for answers, you'll find that their needs might be a little easier to meet than expected. ►►

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The new Hamilton Mill branch will be Gwinnett County's first "green" library. (Photo courtesy of Precision Planning Inc.)

Gwinnett County Library System begins construction of first 'green' facility

Gwinnett County and Gwinnett County Public Library officials held a groundbreaking ceremony in Lawrenceville on Oct. 21 to kick off construction of the Hamilton Mill branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library System.

Located on a five-acre site at 3690 Braselton Highway adjacent to the new Duncan Creek Park, the Hamilton Mill branch will be the county's 15th library branch. Precision Planning Inc. of Lawrenceville designed the 20,000-square-foot building to meet Silver LEED energy efficiency and sustainability standards, making it the first green library in the county and third in the state. Some of the environmentally friendly design elements include a pervious parking lot, recycled brick and an irrigation system that will use storm-water runoff.

The building will also include an "Art in Architecture" feature consisting of specially designed window glass depicting themes of water, earth, sun and the use of language in our culture, designed by Atlanta artist and sculptor Maria Artemis. It will offer up to 75,000 books and other items for checkout, including adult, teen and children's print and online collections.

Garrard Construction Group is constructing the \$7.4 million facility, which will open in the winter of 2010. The 2005 SPLOST will fund \$5.4 million of the total cost, and the rest of the funding will be provided by a state grant through the Georgia Public Library Service. ►►