

REPORTER

ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2016

VOLUME XXXIV ISSUE 1



Effingham Public Library



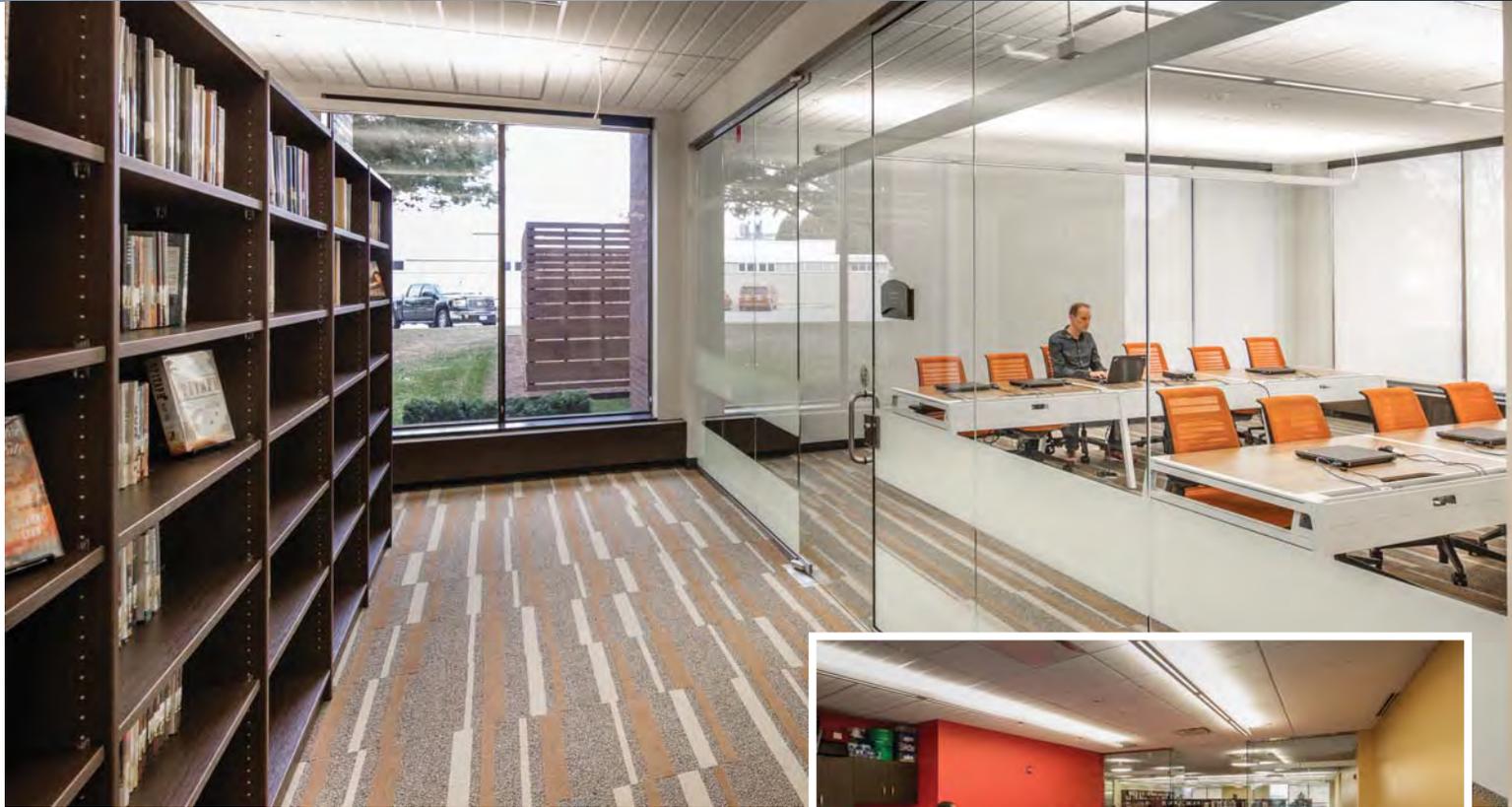
Architect:	Johnson Roberts Associates, Boston/Chicago
Type of project:	Renovation and repurposing of 27,000-square-foot bank building
Total cost:	\$3.5 million
Service population:	12,000
Library director:	Amanda D. McKay

What people are saying:

"This is a huge day for Effingham. So many people in our community have worked hard for many years to bring this project to fruition. They have given so generously of their time and money to bring this building back to life as our new library and community gathering place, here at the heart of Effingham's downtown area."

What the media is saying:

"The Effingham Public Library completed its first three months at its new location with record circulation numbers. The number of new library cards issued increased, with nearly 200 people and families signing up for a library card in October and November. It confirms just how badly this community needed a larger library."
[Effingham Public Radio, December 31, 2015]



The library expanded from 13,000 to 27,000 square feet, following a nine-month remodeling of the former Fifth Third Bank building. The design makes use of open spaces and incorporates several features from the bank, including turning the cash vault into an art gallery. The library already had \$500,000 in a restricted building fund, originally raised to purchase land for a new building. The former building appraised at nearly \$700,000, and funds from the sale will be used to cover a portion of the renovations. Nearly \$1.5 million has been raised to date, with \$300,000 remaining.

