

**APPENDIX A:  
JACOB EDWARDS LIBRARY  
SOUTHBRIDGE, MA  
VISION STATEMENT**

In discussions among the Long Range Planning Committee members, again and again elements of services of the Jacobs Edwards Library came forward.

During the Long Range Planning process the Long Range Planning Committee, Board of Trustees, and library staff offered a number of statements that project an ideal image of the Jacob Edwards Library. These statements include the projection that the Jacob Edwards Library will always

- be a convenient, inviting, and up-to-date facility that meets the growing expectations of users for new technologies and provides separate areas for children, quiet spaces for study and research, access to local history and genealogy, and designated space for meetings and programs
- incorporate new and emerging technologies as an integral part of overall service
- provide full and equal access to information in print, non-print, and electronic formats, including access to computers for residents that do not have computers at home
- provide technology assistance and informal (one-on-one or small group) training in use of library databases, Internet, and other electronic materials
- promote the love of reading and lifelong learning
- develop collections that meet the needs of an increasingly diverse patron base
- support partnerships that encourage the pursuit of cultural, recreational, and educational interests
- preserve the local historical record and foster respect for the shared heritage of residents of the Southbridge community
- be involved in the community through participation on boards, ongoing liaisons with organizations serving youth and senior groups, and through partnerships such as the Literacy Coalition
- recruit volunteers for programming and exhibit support
- improve the town's perception of the library's value and relevance through marketing and promotion
- seek grants to implement activities identified in the Long Range Plan