



Introduction to the Workplace Solutions Library

GSA has created the Workplace Solutions Library to help our colleagues think about the way we design, create and use spaces. We have completed many projects, found the most effective tools, and learned how to get the best results from using those tools. With the Workplace Solutions Library, we intend to transfer what we have learned from those projects and research efforts to our professional colleagues and our clients.

Our research and pilot projects tell us that you cannot effectively design space or select the right furniture if you do not understand how people work. In terms of how people work, we have seen that many similarities exist within very diverse projects. By capitalizing on these similarities, we can help our colleagues make the best informed, and easily justified purchase, whether that is furniture, design, or construction.

The most important component of the Library, and the foundation for the rest of the information, is the work patterns section. It introduces you to the similarities we have seen in the way people work. The space configuration section provides neighborhood planning concepts and workstation configuration concepts. You can use these concepts as thought starters when you consider your own projects. The furniture section introduces you to the basic components of system furniture and ideas of selecting furniture components to suit the users' work patterns.

Basically, the Workplace Solutions Library is a documentation of our best practices. It does not cover everything, but it directs you to the right resources. If you need more information on other aspects of your project, such as change management, sustainable design, or interior design, you can visit the "Other Areas of Interest" section of the Workplace Solutions Library. You can reach our specialized assistance on topics such as developing workspace requirements by contracting a workplace specialist at GSA Workspace Delivery Program at: www.gsa.gov/workplace.



Introduction to the Workplace Solutions Library |video script

KK: Hi Bryant, Welcome to the GSA Workplace Solutions Library.

BR: Hey Kevin! Yeah, I've just gotten here and I'm looking around a bit. I guess we're virtual?

KK: Well, it's not really that complicated. It's not a high-tech video game., just a new tool to help our colleagues think about the way we design, create and use space.

BR: Well that sounds like something I could use- How did you go about researching it?

KK: As the senior architect of Workplace Delivery Program for GSA, I've been involved in a lot of projects, and we've looked at the tools that are most effective and the best results from using those tools. Believe it or not, some projects go better than others.

BR: I can DEFINITELY believe that!

KK: This Workplace Solutions Library is designed to transfer what we've learned from those t projects to our professional colleagues and our potential clients You know, this should give them a head start.

BR: Well, I know from personal experience, as a designer, that having access to previous successes . . .and mistakes, is invaluable. It really is amazing how many similarities exist within very diverse projects. AND when I consider how varied and broad the GSA portfolio is . .

KK: We have 362 million sf of space

BR:it's great how you've found these consistencies across all of GSA's projects.

KK: Yeah, and by capitalizing on these similarities, I think we can help our colleagues make the best informed, and easily justified purchase, whether that is furniture, design, or construction..

BR: That seems particularly important now. What are the pieces of the tool, Kevin? And which are in your opinion, the most important?

KK: There are several components, I guess the most important, or at least basic to the rest of the information, is the work patterns section. I've always said that you can't design effective space or select the right furniture if you don't understand how people work. The work pattern section introduces us to the similarities we have seen in the way people work, despite differences in title and grade level.

KK: In fact people work very similarly and need similar things in their space,

BR: And this little tool is going to open that world for me! Let me at it!

KK: Well, hold on there, it's not hard and fast! It's basically a documentation of our best practices. And it doesn't cover everything. But it directs you to the right resource. If you need more information on other aspects of your project, like change management, sustainable design, or interior design, you can visit the "Other Areas of Interest" tab on the main menu. Right up there somewhere. You can reach other specialized assistance on topics such as developing workspace requirements by contacting a workplace specialist such as myself or one in your local region at GSA Workspace Delivery Program at www.gsa.gov/workplace.

BR: Then I would get to work with you?

KK: If you are lucky.

BR: Well I feel lucky. How do I get started.

KK: By taking the work patterns survey. It will determine which of 6 work styles you have . . . and that will lead to furniture choices, neighborhood designs and all sorts of other data. If you are designing for a group, you might take a sampling of your colleagues and ask them to take the survey (or even take it for them).

BR: okay then, I'm off to the survey. And after that, I'm exploring some of the other parts of this tool. Seems to me there's a lot of work that went into this, and I bet I can profit by taking a look. I love getting smarter!

KK: Yes, please, have a look. And get back to me with comments or suggestions.

BR: Don't I always?

KK: Yep, I can count on you.