

# **Transforming Life After 50 -- IMLS Western Regional Fellowship**

## **HOW TO BETTER SERVE PATRONS 50 AND OVER.**

### **DEVELOP A TEAM**

- Initiate and lead a dialogue about the needs of adults 50+ in your community and raise awareness of the opportunities for them that the library could meet.
- Identify, form, and guide a team that is representative of the library and the community it serves.

### **SURVEY THE COMMUNITY**

- Design a community assessment strategy incorporating reliable community-based instruments to assess the needs of the target population, tabulate, and present the results.
- Use the results to identify key partners and programs of interest to this audience.

### **IDENTIFY AND FORM PARTNERSHIPS**

- Identify and target the types of partners and collaborators that will support successful programs that will reach this audience.

### **ENGAGE VOLUNTEERS**

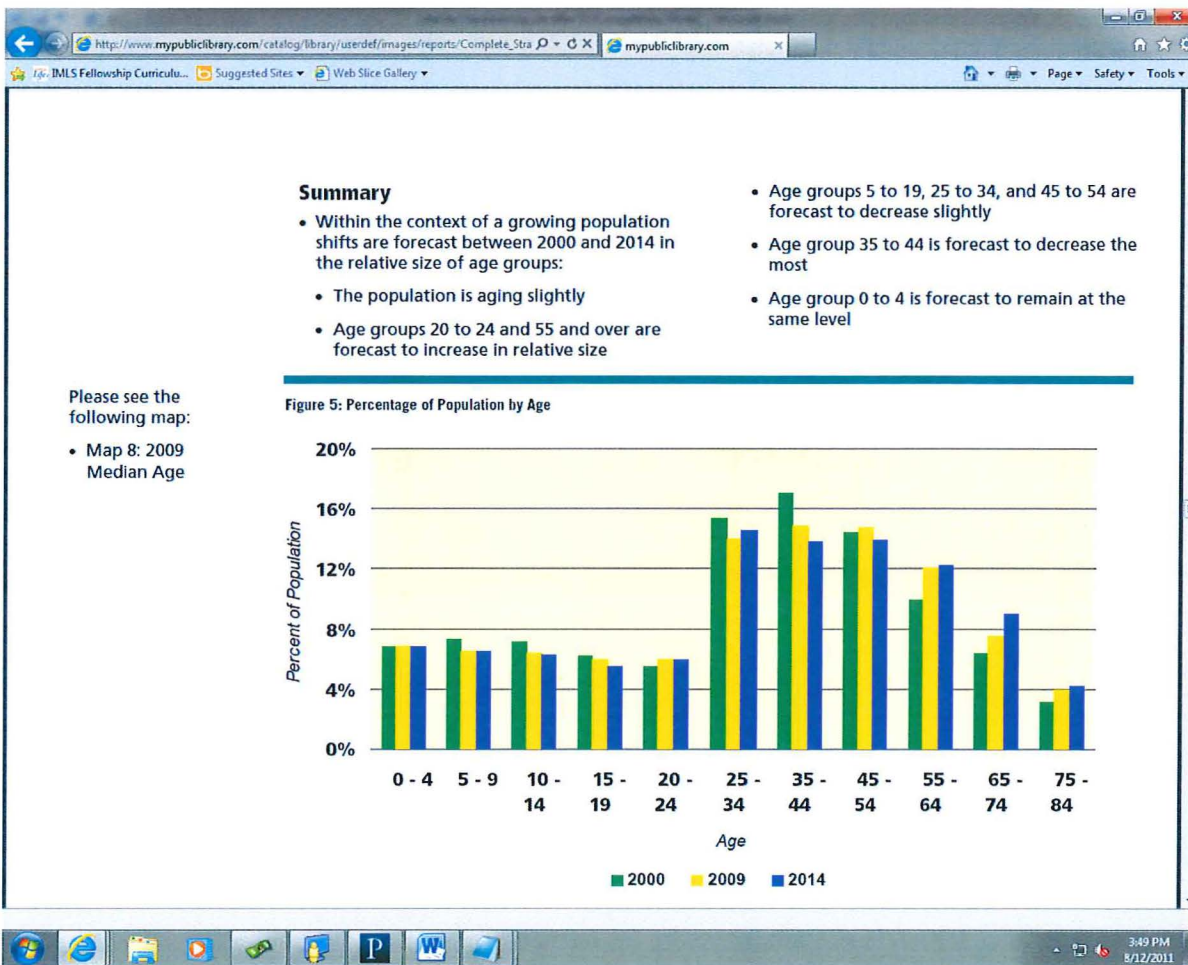
- Create diverse and meaningful skilled volunteer positions that will attract a broad range of community volunteers, especially baby boomers
- Engage this talent to extend the library's capacity in the community and to benefit from these new library advocates and supporters.

### **EVALUATE THE RESULTS OF PROGRAMS**

- Develop measurable objectives and outcomes to evaluate a library program.
- Create valid instruments to evaluate library programs.
- Tabulate and interpret the data collected through program evaluation.

## Some Traits of Local Adults Age 50+

- Have years of experience
- Keep up with trends and technology
- Don't liked to be lumped in together as a group (one size does not fit all)
- Live busy, active lifestyles.
- Enjoy m multi-generational library programs
- Have varied interests
- Some have financial concerns
- Want part time jobs or satisfying volunteer work
- Passionate about what they believe in.
- Population Ages 55+ expected to increase slightly



## CURRENT OUTCOMES

- **Financial Literacy Series Green Valley Library** – Spring of 2011 – 5 programs, 77 attendees
- **A City/Library patron survey of Heritage Park Library users.** – 28 surveys completed
- **Multi-generational branch wide photography classes as part of Summer Reading 2010.** – 9 programs 177 attendees.
- ***Mysteries of the Universe* series of programs Fall 2010 based focusing on science and pseudo science with a variety of community partners at Green Valley Library.** Fall of 2011 – 5 programs
- **Organized volunteer intake and training program at Green Valley Branch library.**

### 2011 Partners and Collaborators:

AARP

Amalgamated Bank

Budin Group

City of Henderson Parks and Recreation

Consumer Credit Counseling

Karel Group

Las Vegas Astronomical Society

Las Vegas Natural History Museum

Las Vegas UFO Hunters

Local Authors

Money Wise Marketing

Nevada Camera Club

Ritz Camera

Silver State Ghost Hunters

State of Nevada Welfare

UNLV Chemistry Club

## FUTURE PLANS

- **Develop a reliable method for evaluating adult programs.**
- **Plan multigenerational programs and program series with interesting and varied themes.**
- **Continue to seek and engage community partners and highly skilled volunteers.**

## Libraries Transforming Life After 50 – Survey

*Thank you for taking the time to complete this brief survey. Your responses will help the Library to help you better. If you have any questions about the survey please contact Stephen Platt [smplatt@hdpl.org](mailto:smplatt@hdpl.org) or call 207.4261*

1. I am over the age of 50 \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no
2. Are you a regular library user? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no
3. What are the most important things that you would like the library to know about people over the age of 50?

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4. Please list any special needs, talents, or interests that people over the age of 50 have.

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5. How do you feel that libraries can better serve people over the age of 50?

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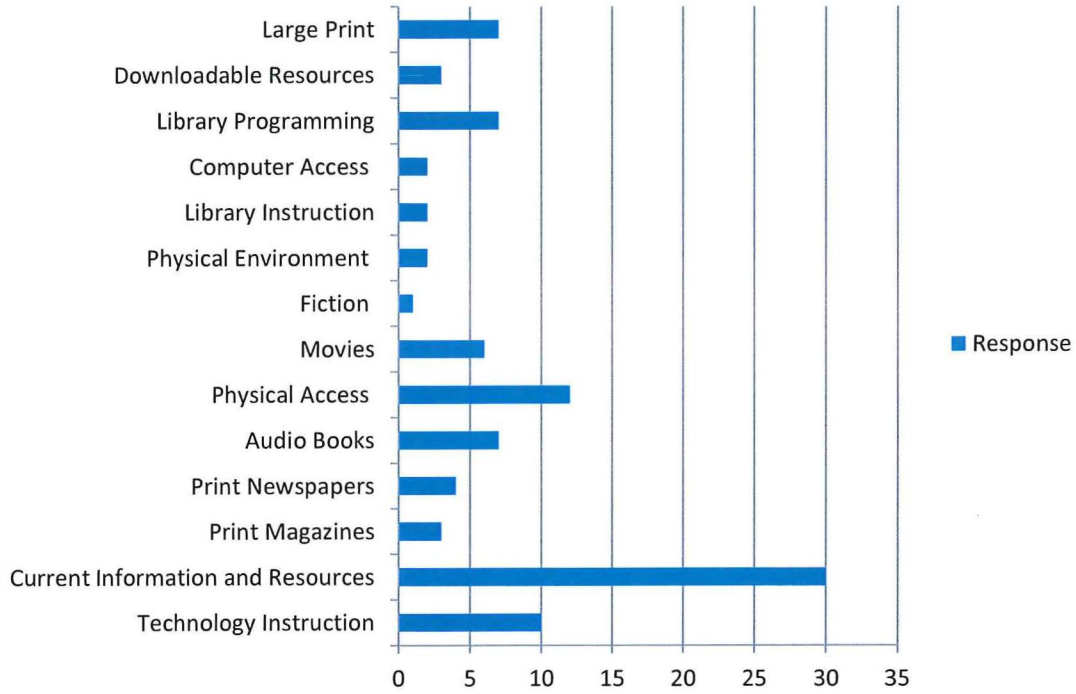
6. What are challenges or barriers facing people over the age of 50? \_\_\_\_\_

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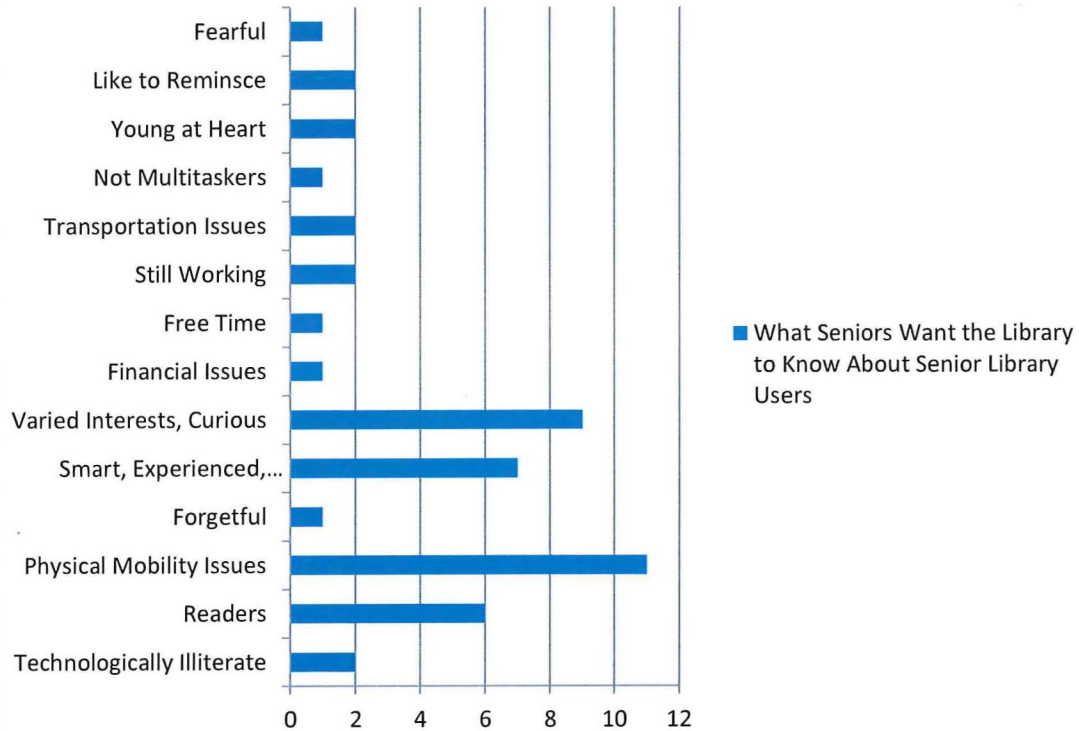
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## What You Value Most, Appreciate, and Desire at the Library



## What You Want the Library to Know About Senior Library Users



**QUESTION THREE -- What are the most important things that you would like the library to know about people over the age of 50?**

<b>Response</b>	<b>TAG</b>
<i>Need consistent and knowledgeable teach of the computer systems. As most 50+ did not have the advantage of growing up with them.</i>	<i>Technology Instruction Technologically Illiterate</i>
<i>Knowledge never stops.</i>	<i>Access to Information</i>
<i>Sometimes we are slow and need lots of patience.</i>	<i>Slow Mobility Issues</i>
<i>Many do not have or use computers.</i>	<i>Technology Instruction Technologically Illiterate</i>
<i>They like to read newspapers and magazines.</i>	<i>Print Magazines Print Newspapers Access to Information</i>
<i>Reading newspapers.</i>	<i>Print Newspapers Access to Information</i>
<i>This library is great. I get lots of help finding book tapes excellent convenience. Librarians are great and helpful.</i>	<i>Audio Books</i>
<i>We are readers.</i>	<i>Access to Information Readers</i>
<i>Don't cram the books so tight that we can't get the books off the shelf or back on.</i>	<i>Physical Access</i>
<i>I am slow and I forget things often.</i>	<i>Slow Forgetful</i>
<i>Concentrate on what you're good at. Good compellation of recent fiction, movies, and periodicals. Create search trees for outside resource-tree should be interactive and graphic.</i>	<i>Current Resources Movies Print Magazines Fiction Access to Information</i>

<i>We are smart. We have been there &amp; back – we experience a lot.</i>	<i>Smart Experienced</i>
<i>Book selections vary.</i>	<i>Varied Interests Readers</i>
<i>Varied interests</i>	<i>Varied Interests Access to Information</i>
<i>Collection of books and tapes (DVD's).</i>	<i>Audio Books Movies</i>
<i>Not so much loud talking, no cell phones in library.</i>	<i>Quiet Environment</i>
<i>More free time, less money – library is important.</i>	<i>No Money Free Time</i>
<i>Some of us cannot bend down to the bottom shelves – I think the shelves could be raised (wheel chairs/walkers).</i>	<i>Physical Access Mobility Issues</i>
<i>They are self supporting and still looking for jobs with a career.</i>	<i>Still Working Access to Information</i>
<i>How to use the library facilities.</i>	<i>Library Instruction Library Programming</i>
<i>We enjoy reading and have a high intelligence level. We are a curious generation.</i>	<i>Varied Interests Readers Curious Access to Information</i>
<i>That they take out a lot of books and really like to read.</i>	<i>Access to Information Readers</i>
<i>We get cold easily; we have problems seeing and reaching books on the lower shelves.</i>	<i>Physical Access Mobility Issues</i>
<i>Health.</i>	<i>Access to Information</i>
<i>You probably are already aware of the need for larger print.</i>	<i>Large Print</i>



**QUESTION FOUR-- Please list any special needs, talents or interests that people over the age of 50 have.**

<b>Response</b>	<b>TAG</b>
<i>Ability to think: Not multitasking. To have more conviction and follow through.</i>	<i>Knowledgeable Not Multitaskers</i>
<i>Young at heart, interests in doing activities which may not have been accomplished while raising a family.</i>	<i>Still Young Library Programming</i>
<i>Please move the bookcase so those who want the various daily papers are not held up by those browsing over books.</i>	<i>Physical Access Print Newspapers Access to Information</i>
<i>It is nice to have newspaper: New York Times early in the morning.</i>	<i>Print Newspapers Access to Information</i>
<i>Computer knowledge.</i>	<i>Technology Instruction</i>
<i>I would like more large print books.</i>	<i>Large Print</i>
<i>More tapes and books on hobbies like dancing as well as other dances. Good books large print.</i>	<i>Audio Books Large Print Varied Interests Access to Information</i>
<i>Large print books &amp; audio books.</i>	<i>Large Print Audio Books</i>
<i>We have wonderful old time memories.</i>	<i>Like to Reminisce</i>
<i>Material involving the order close out of life.(?) Otherwise pressure that interests over 50 are much the same as the under 50.</i>	<i>Still Young Varied Interests Access to Information</i>
<i>Health- alternative medicine, travel films to see sights that a senior is unable to travel to. (Including small town's USA)</i>	<i>Library Programming Access to Information</i>
<i>Handicap accessibility.</i>	<i>Physical Access Mobility Issues</i>
<i>More dreamy music when we can dance or reminisce our old goings of music.</i>	<i>Library Programming Reminisce</i>

*Help with bottom shelves – bending over is difficult for some / we all have some talents(interests) include: reading, swimming, traveling, singing and playing instruments.*

*Physical Access  
Varied Interests  
Library Programming  
Mobility Issues*

*Experience, education and families.*

*Experienced  
Access to Information*

*Download music & books etc.*

*Downloadable Resources  
Audio Books*

*Knowledge.*

*Knowledgeable*

*Life experience, wisdom, bilingual.*

*Knowledgeable*

*Experience of life, knowledge and wisdom.*

*Knowledgeable*

*Medical & Employment.*

*Access to Information*

*I appreciate the “for seniors” technology books.*

*Technology Instruction  
Computer Illiterate*

**QUESTION FIVE—How do you feel that libraries can better serve people over the age of 50?**

<b>Response</b>	<b>TAG</b>
<i>Allow an exemption to the 90 minute computer allowance per day. Should be allowed to get back in line to use the computer if no one else is using them.</i>	<i>Computer Access</i>
<i>Information and ideas which give us encouragement to continue and (?) that life can start after 50.</i>	<i>Varied Interests Access to Information</i>
<i>Continue having instructors come in to teach computers.</i>	<i>Technology Instruction</i>
<i>Old consumer reports and require Henderson Library card to view otherwise they will disappear.</i>	<i>Print Magazines</i>
<i>Keep the library as quiet as possible.</i>	<i>Quiet Environment</i>
<i>It takes so long to check out brand new and best sellers books. I have reserved a book for over a month, still waiting.</i>	<i>Current Resources Readers</i>
<i>They already do, keep the good work.</i>	<i>Library Does a Good Job</i>
<i>Large print paperbacks.</i>	<i>Large Print</i>
<i>More computers.</i>	<i>Technology Access</i>
<i>Create trees that (?) topics computer search and topical areas and user friendly virtually guides to assist for them.</i>	<i>Library Instruction Access to Information</i>
<i>Nothing.</i>	<i>Library Does a Good Job</i>
<i>CD that are positive affirmation.</i>	<i>Audio Books Access to Information</i>
<i>They are great now!</i>	<i>Library Does a Good Job</i>
<i>More large print material.</i>	<i>Large Print</i>
<i>Happy with present service. Subscription to "Economist" magazine would be good</i>	<i>Print Magazines Library Does a Good Job</i>
<i>More of the shelves that jut outward so you can see the spines of the books.</i>	<i>Physical Access</i>

*Keep lots of reading material at hand.*

*Varied Interests  
Access to Information  
Readers*

*Invite HS students to come and help seniors learn how to use the computer,  
to download e-books and email.*

*Technology Instruction  
Downloadable Resources*

*Geriatrics- information about Geriatrics.*

*Access to Information*

*Books clubs; Author Lectures, computer classes, increased German Lang. movies and  
books.*

*Programs  
Movies  
Access to Information*

*More free computer classes in the evening.*

*Technology Instruction*

*No idea.*

*More "old" TV shows and movies on DVD.*

*Movies*

**QUESTION SIX-- What are challenges or barriers facing people over the age of 50?**

<b>Response</b>	<b>TAG</b>
<i>More physical than mental.</i>	<i>Physical Access Mobility Issues</i>
<i>Some of us may have to realize that we can't move and quick thinking when at years. This may cause fear.</i>	<i>Fearful Physical Access Mobility Issues</i>
<i>Rapidly changing technology.</i>	<i>Technology Instruction</i>
<i>Many of us are not up to date on electronic use. Not knowledgeable about computers and terms used.</i>	<i>Technology Instruction</i>
<i>Too numerous to list. Here the entire building and staff do a very good job (excellent!)</i>	<i>Library Does a Good Job</i>
<i>Slow sailing in physical activity and responses.</i>	<i>Physical Access Mobility Issues</i>
<i>Need large print – movies, tapes (eye problems) but still love to read.</i>	<i>Large Print Audio Books Movies Readers Mobility Issues</i>
<i>Poor eyes, less mobility.</i>	<i>Physical Access Transportation Mobility Issues</i>
<i>Hard to push/pull books out of tightly packed shelves.</i>	<i>Physical Access</i>
<i>Mobility may require display and pickup.</i>	<i>Transportation Mobility Issues</i>