

## INTRODUCTION

This document has been prepared by Vandermark Consulting at the request of the Director of Library Services and Library Trustees of the Montague Public Libraries to assist the library administration and town officials in assessing the status of the current library facilities and in planning for effective future library facilities. To help officials and administration meet these goals this Library Building Program includes:

- a review of the characteristics of the community
- a needs assessment of the current library facilities
- a projection of probable library use in the future
- specification of the total square feet and all functional areas needed to carry out library service in accordance with selected library roles and in consideration of the community's needs through the year 2019

Fieldwork included library site visits in Montague on October 14, 1999. Consultant Sondra Vandermark collected data about the libraries through observation and meetings with library staff members Linda Hickman, Pat Sojka, Pat Saczawa, Mary Ann LeBlanc, Michelle Welcome, Bev Whitbeck, and Library Trustee Elaine Levine. Director of Library Services Susan SanSoucie provided valuable additional material about Montague and the libraries. Consultant Sondra Vandermark and Director of Library Services Susan SanSoucie also met with Frank Abbondanzio, Town Administrator and Robin Sherman, Town Planner. Their input was invaluable. Jessica Atwood from the Franklin County Planning Office provided supplementary information about Montague. Statistical information from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, Massachusetts Institute for Social Economic Research (MISER), and the U.S. Census was used in the development of this document.

This Library Building Program provides an assessment of the functional requirements of a library facility that will house the Montague Public Libraries services and collections for at least twenty years. An Executive Summary is included to provide the major recommendations of this document and Appendix B summarizes the space requirements for collections, seating, service desks, staff work area, and group meeting spaces.