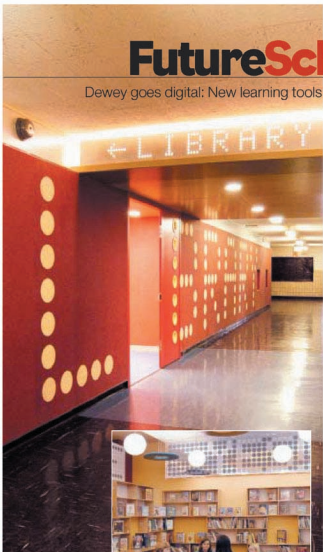


FutureSchools

Dewey goes digital: New learning tools bring help to old media.



Following the renovation of the library at P.S. 6 in Manhattan, shelves of books are now surrounded by modern design and high tech.



DON'T CALL IT A MEDIA CENTER. While the library in Manhattan's P.S. 6 in New York City is stocked with the latest and greatest gadgetry—after a nearly \$1 million renovation—books are not forgotten. "Anyone can have a media center," says Henry Myerberg, who designed the library and is a principal architect for New York City's Rockwell Group. "But a library has history and a certain gravitas. We're just turning it into a different setting. It's not about being quiet anymore. It's about bringing in a whole class for storytelling, performances, group projects, and working with tech."

Funded by both private and public donors, the brightly lit library opened in September 2004 with a stock of 10 Apple iBooks available for loan to teachers, four Apple eMacs, a SMART Board, a viewing screen from Da-Lite that descends from the ceiling, an InFocus LP820 LCD projector, and a state-of-the-art sound system.

School librarian Kim Bader uses the tech to teach old-fashioned library skills. In one lesson, she enters the catalog numbers for several cookbooks in her laptop, and those codes appear on the digital whiteboard. One by one, eager volunteers spring to their feet to put their hands on entries and drag them into their proper place in numerical order. "It juices up some otherwise really dry lessons," Bader says. She has also led a tutorial for teachers in hopes that they will schedule classroom time in the library to use the technology.

—Jacqueline Heinze

P.S. 6 New York, NY

Opened: September 2004

Size: 1,800 square feet

Cost: Nearly \$1 million from public and private funding; all technology given by anonymous donor

What it is: This elementary school library, housed in a 1950s building, boasts a modern design and high-tech equipment.

Architect: The Rockwell Group

Photos: Courtesy of the Rockwell Group