One focus of the WPL Strategic Plan is to provide our customers greater access to technology. Currently, the Library provides thirty computers for public use. The access and services available on these computers vary and are defined below: 3 computers provide restricted access to our online catalog and subscription databases 2 computers in the Children's Department are dedicated solely to educational gaming 30 computers have full access to the Internet and the complete suite of Microsoft Office products 1 computer has full access to the Internet, the Microsoft Office suite, and a range of adaptive technologies for use by the hearing/sight impaired Providing access to information and new technology allows for innovative learning opportunities. Currently the Library is unable to provide access to the various forms of technology that could help bridge the 'digital divide' by providing access to technology for those that do not have the resources to have the technology on their own. In addition, as the technological demand of formal education requires increasingly greater knowledge and skills from students and the workforce, the Library needs to provide an array of technological tools to aid student collaboration and business skills training. The Library's tax-supported operating funds do not provide for the creation of this center. At the time they were purchased, these products represented the cutting edge for technology in public libraries. This is no longer the case. With the advent of Web 2.0 technologies, the techno-savvy customers who frequent the Library are finding that we no longer meet their technology needs. Further, we are not able to expose our community to the 2.0 technologies and web-based products that are being introduced in the marketplace. The current physical arrangement of our equipment is not conducive to the collaborative behaviors of our customers. Working in groups has become the way that many students and adults function within the technological environment of today. We propose to construct a multimedia center to respond to these new behaviors. The newly-designed space will provide a unique technological experience for WPL customers. The ability to collaborate with small groups of colleagues or friends will be highly valued, as will the concept of having quiet space for an individual seeking to create. The space will also provide us with the ability to host training classes; flexibility is designed into the space in order to accommodate the collaborative, individual, and classroom uses that will occur there. The key technological elements that consumers seem to be embracing the most are editing digital photos; color reproduction (printers and copiers); and video/sound recording and editing. In turn, they are using the web to publish their output, whether it be podcasts for public consumption or the sharing of their creations with family and friends. The new technology center will be based on these activities. Computer stations will be available that will allow customers to perform certain tasks, including, but not limited to: editing digital photos; creating video games; creating music; and recording video productions. The latest video/sound editing software and
animation technology will be installed, as will the necessary equipment for burning to disk and printing in color. An added appeal will be the ability to hold a variety of training classes in the new space, including the possibility of hosting videoconferencing sessions/classes. Additional staff may need to be hired in order to manage the room and to provide the added, specialized training that will help our customers fully enjoy all of the Center's many features. Spatial Needs ' One sound-proof room for recording of video and sound ' Space for a minimum of six work stations and peripherals as defined below Technological Needs ' A minimum of six computer workstations (a combination of MAC and PC) with advanced processing capabilities to handle large sound and video files. o Large movable monitors for simplified viewing o Color scanners o Internet access o CD/DVD Burners o Software for: digital photo manipulation; music composition (including keyboards); sound editing; video editing and sequencing, including 'blue screen' capability; video capture from analog; graphics programs for layout work o Digital video cameras, digital cameras, and digital voice recorders o A communal color printer with print management technology to charge for printouts o Color photocopier o Videoconferencing technology o Smart Board technology