The Concept Library was introduced at Castlewood Library in 2014 to support the Arapahoe Libraries Strategic Plan, which highlights the need for libraries to adapt spaces to accommodate community gatherings, areas to collaborate and places to create. The Concept Library also ensures our organization evolves with the changing needs of our community and provides direction for making informed decisions about library resources.

DISCOVERING THE CONCEPT
The Concept Library is part playground and part laboratory. It is a place where library users and staff experience different and dynamic ways to use library spaces, resources and services.

CREATING THE CONCEPT
Staff can submit suggestions and their ideas are selected as potential concepts based on feasibility, flexibility, complexity, capacity, available resources and impact.

IDENTIFYING THE CONCEPT
The Concept Library at Castlewood has tested a designated space with privacy for nursing mothers, privacy screens for patron computers, browsable and separate collection for television series, “Bright by Three” early literacy bags and a fiction patron picks display.

COMMUNICATING THE CONCEPT
The Concept Library allows us to be responsive to the changing needs of the community, therefore, we can surprise and delight our patrons by introducing innovative concepts during their visit to the library.

EVALUATING THE CONCEPT
After a specified trial time, each concept will be evaluated to determine whether it will be implemented at other library locations in the future.

ENERGIZING THE CONCEPT
Do you have an idea for a possible Concept Library? Please email Nicole Wilhelms at nwilhelms@arapahoelibraries.org.