



jacksonville public library:

CHILDREN AND TEEN SPACES IN THE MAIN LIBRARY

jacksonville, florida

BACKGROUND



jacksonville, florida

BACKGROUND

Jacksonville, Florida – 2009

- 851,000 population (official census)
expected to be at least 1 million in 2010 census.
- Largest city in terms of land area in the contiguous United States – 839,000 square miles
- 7 new libraries built and opened in 2004-2005
as part of the Better Jacksonville Plan
- Better Jacksonville Plan was a voter approved bond issue
of \$2.25 billion to improve infrastructure in Jacksonville
(roads, bridges, sports arenas, libraries etc.)



Start Here. Go Anywhere.

jacksonville public library

MAIN LIBRARY

Jacksonville Public Library

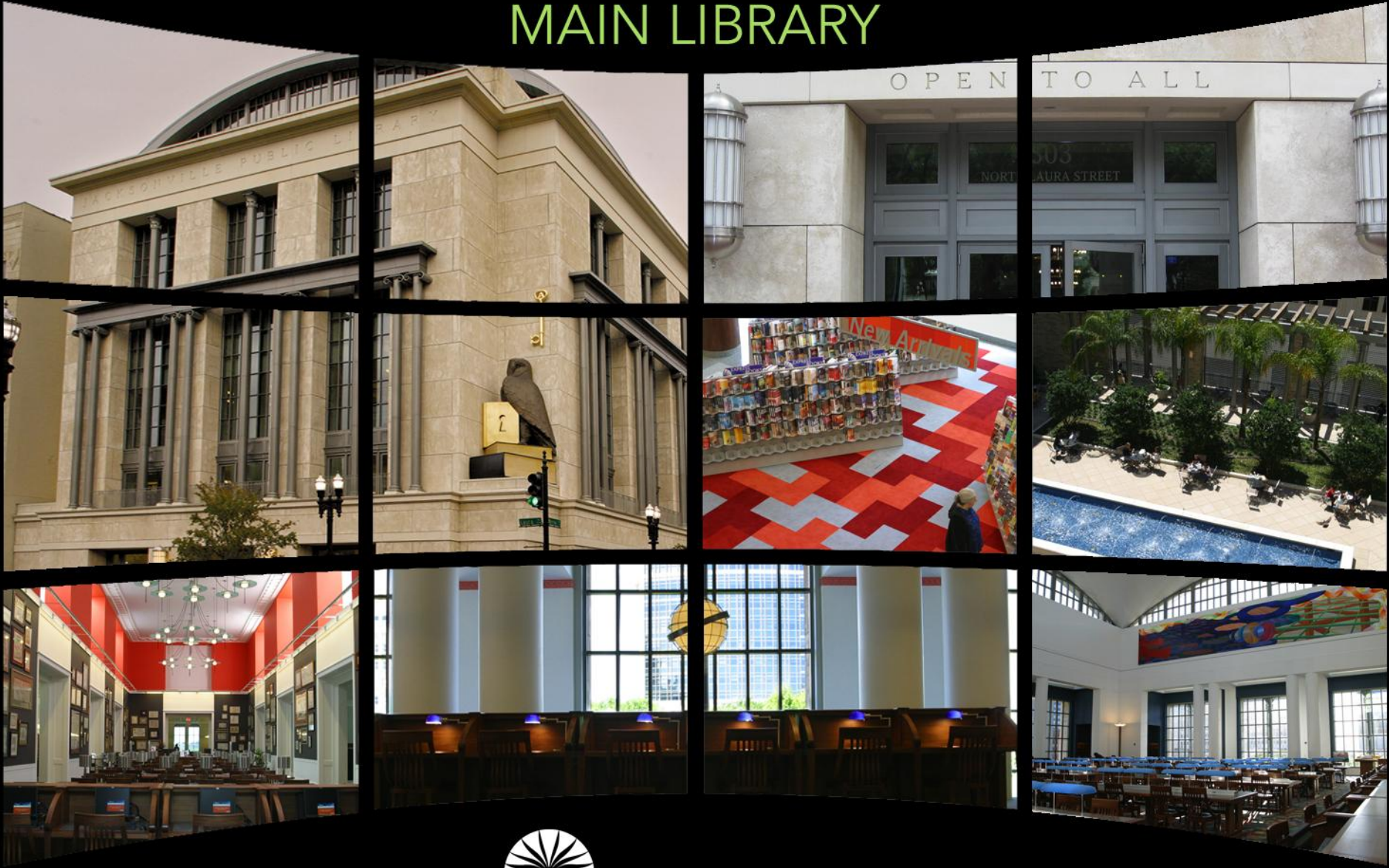
- System of 21 libraries: a Main Library and 20 branch libraries
- Annual circulation in 2008-2009: over 9 million items
- Annual visitor count in 2008-2009: over 5 million visitors
- Annual website hits in 2008-2009: over 5 million hits
- Youth circulation in 2005 from the old Main Library: 61,878
- Youth circulation in 2008 from the new Main Library: 328,386



Start Here. Go Anywhere.

jacksonville public library

MAIN LIBRARY



Start Here. Go Anywhere.

main library teen room

WHAT WORKS...

- Not located adjacent to the Children's Room which is on the floor above – teens want their own distinctive space
- Distinctive space – clubhouse cool – bright colors, eye-catching design features such as the curvy ceiling, and overlarge stuffed red couch
- Safe space: easily monitored space by staff who have wireless phones and good sightlines in the room
- Glass doors identify the room and manage any noise issues. The doors reinforce that this is “teen” space – we have no doors to any other departments.
- Surround-sound stereo system; televisions; computers and Wi-Fi
- Study rooms for quiet study, to hang out, to read, to work online
- Variety of spaces within the “teen” space to display different material formats and manage teen use
- Staff work room adjacent and convenient

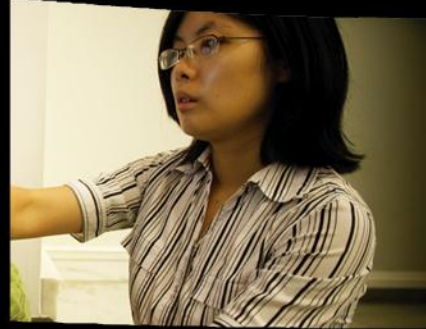
main library teen room

WHAT WORKS...



main library teen room

WHAT ELSE? MORE? DIFFERENT?



main library teen room

WHAT ELSE? MORE? DIFFERENT?

This list came from our teen staff and the teens themselves – our Teen Council.

- Aquarium
- Dance floor
- Arts lab and/or music/video studio
- More and varied seating
- More and varied display space
- Collaborative workstation furniture and computer set-up
- Videogame consoles
- Self-service checkout like the kids and adults!

main library children's room

WHAT WORKS...



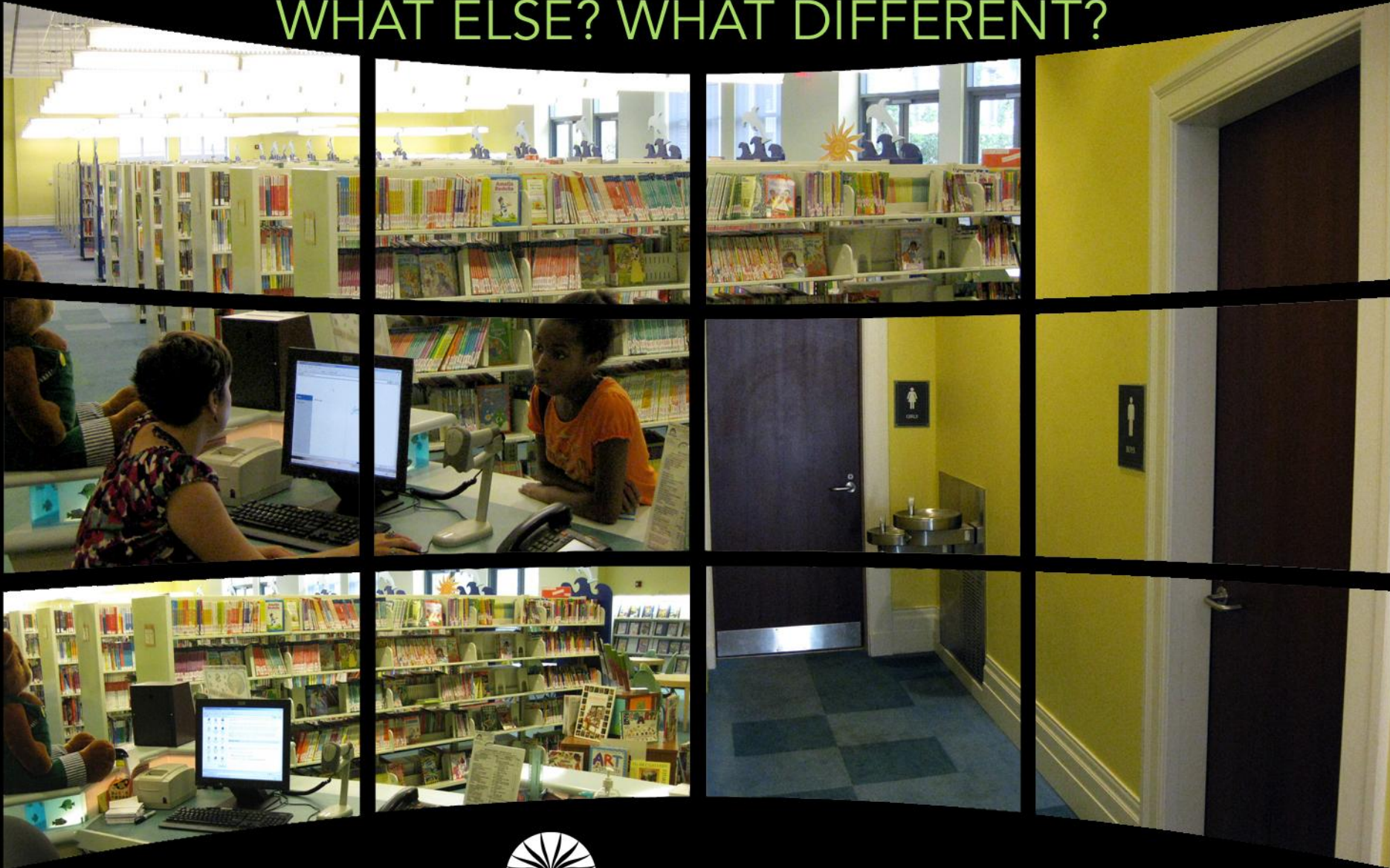
main library children's room

WHAT WORKS...

- A distinctive entrance which children can recognize
- Use of a timeless theme – in our case northeast Florida's beaches and marshes – so the space design never goes out of style
- Furnishings which appeal to children
- Distinctive spaces for different activities and to manage noise: storytelling; participatory stories and music; arts and crafts; quiet space; baby space; toddler space; parent and baby space; games space.
- Carpeted areas keeps noise down and little bottoms and knees from hurting at story time or from a fall but tile/linoleum flooring in craft areas
- Adjacency to courtyard to allow for running around, noise, food and events
- Bright colors
- Self check out machine – kids are fearless and use it all the time!

main library children's room

WHAT ELSE? WHAT DIFFERENT?



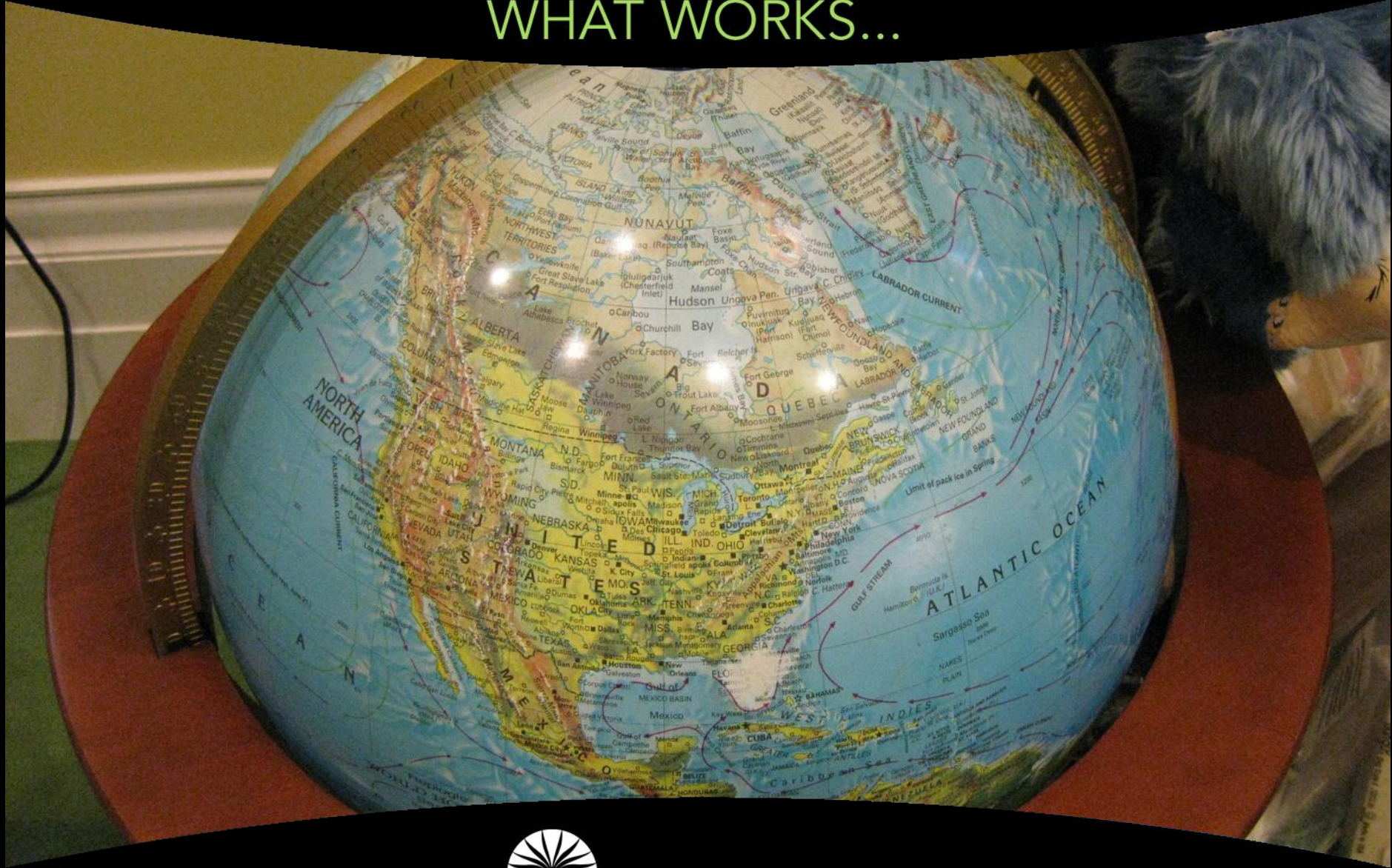
main library children's room


WHAT ELSE? WHAT DIFFERENT?

- Clear sightlines of the space
- Smaller staff reference desk – encourage staff roaming in the children's space
- More space for babies and toddlers with appropriate sized furnishings and toys, games and large stuffed animals
- Upholstered seating – or rocking chairs – for parents with very young children
- Large furniture would be more usable/appealing if it was upholstered. Hard surfaces are not always safe for small children to climb on
- More display space outside the arts and crafts rooms in the main space of the Children's Room to display child art
- Space designated for nursing mothers
- Family restroom as well as for boys and girls separately

main library children's room

WHAT WORKS...





For more information about the Jacksonville Public Library,
our teen and children's services you may contact
Library Director Barbara Gubbin at bgubbin@coj.net