

INNOVATIVE SPACES IN ARL LIBRARIES:  
RESULTS OF A 2008 STUDY

**SUBTOPIC: BRANCH & SUBJECT LIBRARIES**

The Innovative Spaces survey produced 98 instances of special or noteworthy projects being supported in ARL libraries. A comprehensive PDF file of these projects can be found at <http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/innovative-spaces-2009.pdf>, arranged alphabetically by institution.

In order to assist readers with focused interests, 17 “subtopics” have been assigned that group only those survey responses that relate in whole or in part to that topic. This report contains survey responses that touch on the subtopic that is identified above.

For readers who would extract information not covered by the subtopics, key word searching can be applied to the comprehensive list.

**Subtopics:**

Branch & Subject Libraries  
Café / Refreshment  
Classrooms, Workshops, Instruction  
Collaboration  
Digital Centers  
Faculty Development  
Faculty / Graduate Student Spaces  
Flexible, Malleable Spaces  
Galleries, Art, Exhibits, Performances, Events  
Literacy Instruction  
Multimedia  
Presentation Practice  
Technology Support  
Tutoring & Peer Support  
User-centered Programming of Spaces  
Videoconferencing  
Writing Support

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## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, LIBRARY

### **New discipline-specific library mixes state-of-the-art technologies with rare collections.**

C.V. Starr East Asian Library, the first freestanding building ever constructed for an East Asian Library in the nation opened on March 3, 2008. A \$52 million state-of-the-art facility all funded by private gifts, this new library serves the Berkeley and international community with the following features:

- a multi-purpose and multi-functional media center with advanced imaging, satellite and media equipment
- an on-site digitization service for faculty course development
- beautiful learning space with a large reading room, study carrels, and periodicals reading area
- a fully equipped Rare Book Room that allows teaching of imprints and documents dating back more than a thousand years
- Consolidated print collections of 400,000 volumes and an online collection of 800,000 e-resources. <http://www.cp.berkeley.edu/CVStarrEAL.html>

#### **Indicators of success:**

- This space opened in March 2008 so no data about assessment of use is available at this time
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## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, LIBRARY

### **Library provides customized environment for Institute for Research on Labor and Employment students and faculty.**

The new Library Commons is visually stunning, extremely well designed for flexible use, and has become a focal point for community building among scholars who affiliate with IRLE. Elements of the design include:

- Comfortable lounge seating with area lamps
  - Conference/study table with room for 12 persons (more tables may be added)
  - Ubiquitous wireless access
  - An Information Gateway with five public access workstations, two of which are fully available to the general public. These systems may be used for both library research and for "task" computing, such as word processing.
  - A semi-private alcove for visiting scholars, with workstations, laptop space and locking private storage
  - New, private staff offices and reference counter workspaces
  - Digital projection and screen installed and ready for laptop access
  - Relocation of approximately 50 percent of the print collection to nearby sites, including a connected room on the first floor, and secure storage in on the basement level.
- <http://www.irl.berkeley.edu/library/index.php?page=7>

**Indicators of success:**

- Significant, positive impact on IRLE's organizational culture and also on how information is used
  - Fostered community-building among IRLE programs by providing a venue for faculty events and activities
  - Enormously popular with students, faculty, researchers, and visitors for various purposes
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**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO, LIBRARIES****Biomedical library commons optimizes group learning and individual productivity among cohorts.**

The Biomedical Library Information Commons is an 80-user space with computers and software where the library provides expertise, technology, and content to help students, etc., work in an environment where they access, manage, and produce information all at the same workstation.

<http://tinyurl.com/yr6j6x> - also the Info Commons Blog

<http://biomedlinc.wordpress.com>

**Indicators of success:**

- Increased usage of facilities by grad/undergrads.
  - Increase usage of Info Commons computer consultants.
  - High attendance at Info Commons classes.
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**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LIBRARIES****Collaboration with medical library to yield "flexible" learning commons.**

UH Libraries is working on a pilot project- "learning commons". The goal is to offer M.D. Anderson Library users a flexible and inviting space for both collaborative and individual work. The area will be equipped with sophisticated computing, technology, improved options for reserving equipment, and a variety of furniture with a focus on flexibility and collaboration.

**Indicators of success:**

NA

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## MCMMASTER UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

### **Learning commons for humanities and social sciences is campus collaboration.**

The Mills Learning Commons is an integrated learning facility located in our humanities and social sciences library. The Commons includes a large concentration of desktops (about 120) for both collaborative and individual productivity, research and IT assistance, a writing clinic, the integration of traditional and emerging scholarly resources, instruction, services for students with disabilities, and workshop space (for academic skills counseling, etc.). The facility was built in collaboration with our campus IT unit, the Centre for Student Development and the Centre for Leadership in Learning.

<http://library.mcmaster.ca/mills/learningcommons/about.htm>

#### **Indicators of success:**

- Increased usage
- Positive user feedback

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## MCMMASTER UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

### **Incremental improvements to science and engineering library driven by customer feedback.**

The renovated Thode Library of Science and Engineering (Learning Commons @ Thode) will be a hi-tech/hi-touch facility that is attractive to students and faculty alike. It will be a changed space that changes attitudes, practice and outcomes.

<http://library.mcmaster.ca/thode/renovation/consult.htm>

#### **Indicators of success:**

NA

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## UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN LIBRARIES

### **Fine Arts Library Reading Room outfitted with state-of-the-art AV/multimedia production technologies; collaboration with College of Fine Arts.**

The Fine Arts Library Reading Room is a newly renovated space, collaboratively funded by the University of Texas Libraries and the UT College of Fine Arts (CoFA). The target audiences are undergraduate and graduate students from the College, but the space is available to all UT Austin students, faculty and staff. The space is also staffed collaboratively with the CoFA supplying technical support to end users (help with software packages) and the Libraries supplying content expertise and hardware/network infrastructure support. The space includes 20+ media workstations enabling students to access and manipulate various media formats in a collaborative environment. The space includes: - Wireless Access is available throughout the library. - Color printing. - Windows

PCs and Macs with DVD/CD-RW drives, Office XP Suite, Adobe Creative Suite, iTunes, iMovie. - Audio editing workstations with Audacity software, DAT, cassette and M-Audio input interface. - MIDI stations with Sibelius and Finale software. - Video editing workstations with DVD +/- R, RW drives with Final Cut Express and iDVD. Hardware includes S-VHS deck and Mini DV deck. - Scanning stations with PhotoScore scanning program. Hardware includes flatbed and slide scanners; slide scanning and negative strip and large format negative scanning is also available. - Listening and viewing stations with DVD/VHS, S-VHS and Worldwide player functionality. LaserDisc and U-Matic players are also available. - Listening/dubbing station with turntable, dual cassette, and CD player. Other available equipment: - Headphones - Digital Cameras - Laptops - MIDI Keyboards - Slide scanner attachments - Portable CD players In addition, the space was designed flexibly, and we often use it for donor receptions and other outreach activities associated with the College of Fine Arts. We also added electrical outlets everywhere we could.

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/fal/index.html>

**Indicators of success:**

- Increased usage
- Positive feedback from students and faculty
- Renovation was catalyst for naming opportunity for the renovated space

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## UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA LIBRARY

### **Small-group study/teaching rooms with multipurpose capacities.**

In 2007, School of Medicine and the Library collaborated on building 12 small group study / teaching spaces. Funding was provided by the School of Medicine, space was provided by the Library. The rooms hold 10-17 people, each contain projector, instructor computer, whiteboard, and light box (for medical images), and moveable furniture. Rooms are used primarily for small group instruction for first- and second-year medical students Principles of Medicine courses, but are also frequently reserved by other constituencies of the Library for educational purposes. Rooms are also available on a first-come, first-served and short-term reservation basis for student study. The Library's entire book collection was relocated to carve out the space for these rooms.

<http://www.healthsystem.virginia.edu/internet/library/wdc-lib/admin/policy/group-study.cfm>

**Indicators of success:**

- increased usage
- requests for changes or enhancements

## UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA LIBRARY

### **Health sciences library extends collaboration to informatics team. (Health Sciences Library)**

The Library plans to incorporate space for members of the SOM Clinical Informatics department to provide more seamless access to informatics support. The proposed unit will be called the Bioconnector and is part of the University's CTSA proposal to NIH. The Bioconnector will also be a virtual door to bioinformatics and clinical informatics support. It will capitalize on the HSL's existing service and educational infrastructure to provide additional access to clinical technology support. The anticipated audience will be faculty (research and clinical), graduate students, medical students and interested staff.

#### **Indicators of success:**

- Requests for changes or enhancements
  - Increased educational opportunities for clinical informatics support
  - Positive user feedback.
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## UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA LIBRARY

### **Health sciences library responds to students' requests for collaborative and quiet study areas across 24 hours. (Health Sciences Library)**

A collaborative room and expanded quiet study areas, both with 24-hour access, were added to the Library in 2007. The innovation in this area, which was an expansion of existing 24-hour study space, was the attempt to designate different areas for different purposes through furniture and layout rather than signage. The collaborative room has brighter lighting, group tables, and mobile whiteboards in a room with doors that can be closed. Initially, computers were also included in the collaborative room, but they were at individual workstations rather than at the group tables. The computers were moved at students' request recently, since they were being used for quiet, individual work that was easily disrupted by the group activities at tables elsewhere in the room. The computers were moved into the larger, quiet study area of the space.

<http://www.healthsystem.virginia.edu/internet/library/wdc-lib/admin/news/060509b.cfm>

#### **Indicators of success:**

- increased usage
  - requests from users for changes
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## UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA LIBRARY

### **Collaborative venture with computing group boosts support for science and engineering research. (Science & Engineering Library)**

The Research Computing Lab is a collaborative partnership between ITC's Research Computing Support Group and the Brown Science and Engineering Library. The purpose of this partnership is to provide a convenient space for faculty and students to work on innovative projects with specialists and get support for instruction and research in the science and engineering disciplines. The space is equipped with high-end machines and designed to be conducive to group work. We offer consultation services in a wide variety of technologies and methodologies for high performance and research computing. We provide support services in person, via phone, and through our web help ticket system. Our business hours cater to the researcher, professional, instructor, and student. Special activities include a speaker series: the High Performance Computing Bootcamp (<http://www2.lib.virginia.edu/brown/rescomp/events.html#/?p=780>), and short course instruction in Unix, Mathematica, and MatLab. [http://hitchcock.itc.virginia.edu/dml\\_sc\\_reg/index.php?c=view\\_offered\\_courses](http://hitchcock.itc.virginia.edu/dml_sc_reg/index.php?c=view_offered_courses)  
<http://www2.lib.virginia.edu/science/rescomp/index.html>

#### **Indicators of success:**

- Increased use of space
- Increased use by faculty of the services provided
- Positive User Feedback

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## UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON LIBRARIES

Health Sciences Library

### **Collaborative spaces for graduate and professional students emphasize multimedia and teaching support.**

The University of Washington Health Sciences Library (HSL) Learning Commons Services supports the educational missions of the Schools of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Public Health. By partnering with these schools (HSL's primary clientele) and the Student Technology Fee (STF) Committee, HSL's Learning Commons provides collaborative learning spaces for graduate and professional students. Four computer classrooms, each configured in a different way, provide settings for faculty and librarians to teach with multimedia and networked resources. A drop-in computer lab offers access to software and support staff for students to build their own presentations utilizing networked software and equipment such as scanners, color laser printers, the Microsoft Office suite of programs and EndNote Web. An open reserves area offers ready access to physical materials placed on classroom reserve and the

eRes system provides quick electronic access. Funding from these schools and the STF allowed physical renovations and upgrading of equipment. Student surveys conducted before application for support permit HSL to tailor purchases to meet student needs. Most recently, HSL received a University Libraries 21st Century Grant for Innovation, Service, and Program Enrichments to provide clickers in the classroom, thus enabling instructors to use student response systems for instantaneous interactions between instructors and students. Additionally, HSL relaxed its previous ban on all food and beverages to allow students to work in a more comfortable, welcoming atmosphere.  
<http://healthlinks.washington.edu/hsl/commons>

**Indicators of success:**

- Usage
- Instructor feedback
- User feedback

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## UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON LIBRARIES

### **GIS Lab a collaboration targeting all applications of spatial data and information.**

This lab was created by the combined efforts of the Earth and Planetary Science Department, the University GIS Coordinator, and the University Libraries. It is a multipurpose teaching lab dedicated to improving GIS use and education in the University. The Lab is equipped with computer equipment capable of handling the most up-to-date GIS and Remote sensing software. We have campus licenses for ArcGIS Desktop and several other GIS software packages. The lab is equipped with 2 plotters, and a color laser printer, as well as a large format scanner for scanning in maps. The audience the space is geared towards is anyone on campus interested in using GIS. There are several classes held in the space. There is assistance for the lab located in the EPSc Library adjacent to the lab. Further assistance can be found through the University GIS Coordinator's office. The space is also used for various brownbag presentations and workshops throughout the year. Associated with the lab is a mobile GIS lab that was received as part of a Grant from HP. It consists of 20 laptop computers that are outfitted with the GIS software. It is usable anywhere on campus.  
<http://wagda.lib.washington.edu/gislab/>

**Indicators of success:**

- Increased usage
- User feedback
- Requests for additional instruction and activities