INNOVATIVE SPACES IN ARL LIBRARIES: 
RESULTS OF A 2008 STUDY

SUBTOPIC: FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

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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http://www.arl.org/rtl/space/2008study/
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](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

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI LIBRARIES

Faculty “exploratory” focuses on exposure to and utilization of digital media for classes.

The Faculty Exploratory opened in late 2008. The space offers classroom and one-on-one instruction for faculty in the use of new media. Instructors include both librarians and digital media staff. Initial audience includes faculty who have been awarded new media teaching fellowships.

Indicators of success:

- Teaching and learning will be enhanced by faculty understanding and use of new media
Collaboratory supports faculty online course development and student digital and multimedia projects.

The Collaboratory, located in the UNC House Undergraduate Library, is a space designed to help faculty and instructional staff with online course development and for students and faculty to work together on projects involving digitization and web development. The Collaboratory is managed by our Instructional Design and Technology Librarian who trains a staff of graduate assistants and who is always on call when more in-depth assistance is needed. In addition to the individual and collaborative workstations, the room doubles as an instruction lab where training sessions can be scheduled. The library often offers joint workshops with our colleagues from ITS Teaching and Learning, the people on campus who manage the University’s course management system.

http://www.lib.unc.edu/house/collaboratories.html

Indicators of success:

- Increased usage
- Positive user feedback
- Anecdotal evidence of integration into academic coursework

Video/audio editing suite supports digital media creation and re-purposing for students and faculty.

The Digital Media Lab, also located in the House Undergraduate Library, offers an array of audio and video editing software and hardware to assist faculty and students with projects ranging from the integration of birdcalls into an online course to the development of a documentary short film. Trained assistance is always available and both online tutorials and hands-on classes provide an introduction to both the hardware and the software available.

http://www.lib.unc.edu/house/mrc/pages/mediaLab/

Indicators of success:

- Increased usage
- Positive user feedback
- Anecdotal evidence of integration into academic coursework
NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

The Learning and Research Center for the Digital Age (LRCDA).

The LRCDA provides services, staff, equipment, and space to fulfill the role of educating faculty, students, and staff in all aspects of new information technologies as they relate to knowledge of and training in the digital environment. Components include: Digital Media Laboratory (provides assistance in creating digital materials and converting all types of media to digital formats); Usability Research Laboratory; Information Technologies Teaching Center (teaching labs); Scholarly Communication Center (deals with issues related to scholarly publishing, intellectual property, and copyright); DELTA Instructional Services (assists faculty in developing digitally delivered instruction and in promoting the integration of library resources and services into online and distance education courses); Digital Library Initiatives Department (explores and creates new digital services, technologies, and collections); Assembly Room; Multimedia Seminar Center (under renovation).

Indicators of success:

- Positive user feedback

OHIO UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Faculty commons collaboration offers classroom skills support, meeting space, connection to library services, and convening ground.

Ohio University’s Faculty Commons opened in September 2007. Located on the 3rd floor of Alden Library, this 9,000 square-foot facility provides support for teaching, scholarship and engagement. It places three key offices for faculty development – the Center for Academic Technology (CAT), the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE), and the Center for Writing Excellence (CWE) – in a highly visible and convenient location. In addition to providing a home for CAT, CTE, and CWE, the Commons houses the Campus-Community Engagement Office, the Libraries’ Media Production Department, and the Libraries’ Collection Development Office.

These offices, along with three ‘smart’ conference rooms for faculty use, surround a large, open, lobby-like space that contains workstations, desks and tables, and soft seating. Mac and PC stations equipped for video and audio editing are available, as is a ‘sandbox’ for faculty to try out the latest in academic technology. In focus groups, faculty asked for a quiet place to read and study in Alden Library, and the Commons also provides an ideal space for these activities. The Commons has a small kitchen, and can be reserved for social events – coffees, luncheons and the like – by faculty groups. Display areas, both high-tech and traditional, showcase faculty research and teaching projects.
The one-stop shopping concept of the Faculty Commons is patterned after Alden Library’s highly successful student-focused Learning Commons. The purpose of CAT, CTE, and CWE is to enhance the classroom skills of teachers (including faculty and graduate students), while the Media Production Department provides a variety of graphic art and multi-media creation services to support faculty research as well as teaching. The Campus-Community Engagement Office supports engagement in partnerships with the communities surrounding our six campuses through education, services, research, training, and technical assistance. Use of all of these services is expected to increase sharply now that they are housed in this high-quality work-and-study space dedicated to faculty use. http://www.library.ohiou.edu/fc/

**Indicators of success:**

- Increased demand for media services
- Collaboration between units in the Faculty Commons has improved.
- Collaboration between the Library and the FC units has improved. For example, the new version of Blackboard has a greatly expanded presence for the Library.

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**UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LIBRARY**

**Weigle Commons tied to faculty instruction needs and student learning outcomes.**

David B. Weigle Information Commons Sponsored jointly by the University of Pennsylvania Libraries, School of Arts and Sciences, and Office of the Provost, the Commons provides an integrated array of services to support student work and helps to meet the demand for campus spaces that are conducive to group learning. This 6,600 square foot facility is located in the Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center—the main humanities and social sciences library on the Penn campus—that has traditionally served as a communal hub for students in the School of Arts and Sciences. The Commons reports directly to the Libraries and is open to the entire Penn community, though School of Arts and Sciences’ students comprise the majority of users. The Information Commons was conceived as a space that would provide:

- centrally located academic support services that otherwise can be difficult to negotiate on a large decentralized campus
- work spaces that facilitate collaboration
- hardware, software, and technical expertise to support the use of digital media
- tools to aid faculty with the integration of new technologies into the classroom Central to the Commons’ mission are its support services provided by the “Program Partners,” a group of administratively disparate services that have joined forces to collaboratively support undergraduate education.
Together the partners develop services, design workshops, and plan events geared to undergraduate students. Full-time staff and peer tutors offer walk-in and appointment-based one-on-one assistance as well as group workshops. Within Commons students can find help with:

- research provided by subject-expert librarians
- project management, reading, and study skills provided by the Weingarten Learning Resources Center
- writing skills provided by the Writing Center
- public speaking skills provided by CWiC – Communication Within the Curriculum
- digital media production provided by media consultants. Students can focus on developing individual skills but can also approach the experience of producing a paper or project in a more comprehensive way through participation in workshops scheduled both individually and in series, such as “From Assignment to Endnotes.” In this series each session focuses on a single aspect of the creative process, including project management, research, writing, plagiarism and citation styles, poster production, and oral presentation skills.

In addition to providing direct support to students, the Commons offers faculty the resources and tools necessary to experiment with new technologies that can be incorporated into the classroom. Staff work with faculty interested in creating assignments that explore the potentials of media, and then assist students in the execution of their projects. These partnerships help to build collaborations in ways that directly benefit the student learning process. [http://wic.library.upenn.edu/](http://wic.library.upenn.edu/)

**Indicators of success:**

- The space is typically filled to capacity
- Positive user feedback
- Requests for additional support, in terms of both technology and training workshops

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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.

Indicators of success:

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

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO LIBRARIES

Teaching Support Centre a campus collaboration with outreach at several libraries; supports faculty, staff, and student instruction and learning proficiencies.

Four years ago Western Libraries (WL) entered into a close collaborative partnership with the teaching and learning centre for faculty and graduate student development (the former Educational Development Office). The partnership was tangibly realized in the creation of the Teaching Support Centre (TSC). Housed in space on the main floor adjacent to the reference hall in The D.B. Weldon Library, the Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Information & Media Studies Library and the main undergraduate library at The University of Western Ontario, the TSC contains office and consultation space for faculty and graduate student development staff and the Information Literacy Coordinator for Western Libraries. The TSC also offers instructional technology assistance as a satellite location for Western’s Instructional Technology Resource Centre that provides technical expertise and mentoring for faculty wishing to incorporate instructional technology into a course. The TSC then, offers a single point of access for pedagogical proficiency, information literacy expertise and assistance with instructional technology for faculty in support of improving teaching and learning at Western. In addition the TSC has a library of teaching resource materials now integrated into the WL online catalogue, and two classroom teaching labs that mirror classroom facilities across campus and showcase instructional innovations such as Smart Board and Sympodium technology. The classrooms are used for faculty and grad student development programs and initiatives facilitated by the TSC as well as information literacy instruction conducted by WL teaching librarians. The TSC represents more than innovative physical space however. Information Literacy is a key strategic priority for WL and the partnership with the TSC has resulted the integration of Information Literacy and the role of librarians as collaborators in instruction into all of the programs and services, courses and workshops offered for Western teaching
faculty and graduate teaching assistants as well as the inclusion of librarians as participants in these teaching and curriculum development initiatives. TSC website at: http://www.uwo.ca/tsc/

**Indicators of success:**

- higher profile for and increased interest in TSC programs and initiatives and in the unique partnership
- increase in programming for graduate students supporting Western’s focus on improving graduate education
- anecdotal evidence, e.g. For many years in August, the TSC has offered Teaching at the University Level, a week-long program for instructors typically in their second teaching year who want to become better teachers. Formerly farmed out to classrooms and lecture theatres wherever space was available across campus, the course can now be offered in one place. TSC staff has noted a general building of community among course participants since there has been a consistent and recognizable home for the program. An informal follow-up session was requested by participants in the first offering in the TSC as a check-in at the end of the first term, and is now included as part of the program.

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**Yale University Library**

Large-scale library renovation supports student learning and engagement aided by campus collaborators.

The newly renovated Bass Library is a learning environment designed to foster dynamic interactions among Yale students, faculty and staff from across the campus. The space allows librarians, curators and others to engage in collaborative efforts in the support of faculty and students in use of technologies, collections and pedagogical techniques in the new Collaborative Learning Center. Individual and group study spaces also enable these interactions as well as two electronic classrooms, two university classrooms, open study spaces and the Thain Family Café. The Bass Library houses approximately 150,000 books across all disciplines and a circulation staff to help students find, use, and check out these materials. Librarians and curators from throughout the Library bring subject expertise to support library research education. Other units on campus with presence in the Library include Information Technology Services, the Center for Language Study, and the McDougal Graduate Teaching Center. ITS Student Techs are available to help their peers in troubleshooting computer problems and to provide general support for technology in the Bass Library. http://www.library.yale.edu/bass/index.html

**Indicators of success:**

- increased group study areas for meetings with and among faculty, students, staff
- improved area for food/drink [a cafe]
- functioning facilities [e.g. no leaks] and aesthetically attractive environments