INNOVATIVE SPACES IN ARL LIBRARIES:
RESULTS OF A 2008 STUDY

SUBTOPIC: GALLERIES, ART, EXHIBITS, PERFORMANCES, EVENTS

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

Compiled and edited by:

Crit Stuart
Director, Research, Teaching
& Learning

Laura Iandoli
Administrative Assistant

Association of Research Libraries
June 2009
http://www.arl.org/rtl/space/2008study/
**UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA LIBRARY**

**Immense learning complex serves both university and province.**

The Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, University of British Columbia Library: 200,000 square feet of new space and more than 46,000 square feet of renovated space. Phase 2 opened in winter 2008. The complex includes:

- innovative learning spaces, including a 157-seat theatre - new technologies, flexible furniture to support large and small space work;
- breakout rooms;
- new spaces for the rare books collections;
- an array of seminar/study rooms and classrooms, for groups ranging from 6 to 110 people
- support for onsite webcasting and video-conferencing capabilities
- simulation and gaming technologies for learning support
- office and study spaces for Arts One, Science One and Coordinated Arts Programs
- labs and offices for UBC’s School of Library, Archival and Information Studies
- offices and other facilities for the university’s Centre for Teaching and Academic Group (TAG)
- media commons -learning commons -many different study corners (beautiful spaces).
- Chapman Learning Commons offering learning support, services, and programs for writing & research, study skills, multimedia software, and tutoring support. [http://www.library.ubc.ca/clc/](http://www.library.ubc.ca/clc/)
- [http://www.ikebarberlearningcentre.ubc.ca](http://www.ikebarberlearningcentre.ubc.ca)

**Indicators of success:**

- space filled with people since day 1
- the Chapman Learning Commons was filled as soon as it opened.

---

**BROWN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**

**Award-winning Student Study Center transforms basement into vibrant study destination; advisory board manages on-going improvements.**

The Friedman Study Center in the 14-story Sciences Library comprises 27,000 square feet on the ground floor and mezzanine, as well as “Level A,” a sprawling football field-size subterranean level with four outdoor atriums that supply daylight. The subterranean level is the heart of our vibrant new study center. The target audience is students and all new policies and services reflect this. Last fall alone, the gate count for the Sciences Library reached just shy of a quarter million, with an average of 3,000 visitors per day during reading period and finals. Overall the facility saw a 50% increase in traffic during 2007 when compared to the last several years of pre-renovation statistics. There is an official
campus student group called FAB (Friedman Advisory Board) that ensures ongoing student input into decisions relating to the study center. The group has contributed to several enhancements to the Friedman Study Center and most new policies and added services directly reflect the desires of the students. Staff resources and services include a single service point where high-level support staff are available over 100 hours weekly to provide a broad range of library services. Student computing consultants are also found there about 90 hours weekly. The students work for Brown’s Computing and Information Services Department, which also supplied all the technology in the Friedman Center. There are also “after midnight” Circulation student workers at the desk 10 hours weekly. Elsewhere there is an on-site evening multimedia consultant 20 hours weekly and students can get assistance with multimedia equipment during the day via email. There is a café in the Lobby that is open about 100 hours weekly. When Dining Services staff lock up, there are vending machines as well. Study resources include two projector-equipped rooms that fit 8-12. The rooms have a large whiteboard wall. These two rooms can be booked in advance by students. There are six smaller collaborative study rooms, five of which have "whiteboard" glass walls. There is an assistive technology room for students with special needs. There are over 70 workstations, five printers and three copiers. Various types of soft seating permeate Level A and the Mezzanine level, including areas for quiet study, moderately quiet study, and lively group study. Recent innovations include the introduction of a small entertainment DVD collection that is for students only. This is the result of a joint initiative between the Library and the Office of Student Life. 20 newly released (or relatively recently released) titles are leased from Baker & Taylor monthly and the collection will peak at 260, when we start sending back or buying 20 for every 20 we order. Students can check out the DVDs for 24 hours and there are no late fines. This has been very well received on campus. We are also about to unveil in spring 2008 an area for student-run exhibits of student art. Increasingly university departments and student groups who want to engage the student body are booking space in the Lobby for temporary high-visibility displays or information booths that must not impede traffic or impinge on the student’s usual gathering places. One year since opening, there are still not many rules and guidelines for users of the new study center, and those that are posted are the result of student input. All of our long-held library fears about allowing food and drink have not been realized. No equipment has been ruined and there has been virtually no vandalism. Late night there is card-swipe access only, with an entry guard and a roving guard to ensure safety. Students have been known to sleep over, but starting this year we are asking those who come fully equipped for "camping out" to go home to their dorms. Friedman has won two interior design awards and one construction/renovation award. 

http://dl.lib.brown.edu/libweb/about/friedman.php

Indicators of success:

- dramatic increase in use - 3-fold
- continued demand for additional computing and study space
- additional services requested
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.


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

New training and instruction classroom capitalizes on technology and reconfigurability.

The Kathleen A. Zar Room, honoring the late director of the John Crerar Library, is a renovation of the Library’s former Microforms area into a technology-equipped classroom. Existing glass partitions already separate the room from the general reading area. New window shades have been installed to provide privacy and decrease light glare during presentations. The existing tables and chairs were replaced with easily reconfigurable furniture. A screen and whiteboard were added to the walls. Two projector carts and a flat panel display provide multiple viewing options. The room is intended for both formal training and instruction by Library staff and faculty as well as informal group study space for students. The Zar room is also a venue for a speaker series.
**Indicators of success:**

- Evidence of informal use of the space
- Positive user feedback
- Faculty requests to use space for instruction

---

**FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES**

Faculty and graduate research center services informed by user population.

The Scholars Commons is a renovation of the ground floor of Strozier Library providing a collaborative teaching, learning and research space for FSU faculty and students. It opened in Fall 2008. The target audience is FSU faculty and graduate students, and available for undergraduates seeking primary sources and quiet research space. The Center is primarily a lab for faculty in the humanities, facilitating interaction with primary source materials and for the libraries to engage all users in the value of primary sources. The Center includes research consultation spaces, a reading room, a classroom, conference rooms, presentation practice rooms, a large presentation space, multimedia equipment and support, and primary source collections. Our most significant innovation in this space is that after making many decisions for collections, services and staffing based on what we thought users would want...we took the time to visit every academic department on campus to gather qualitative data on the collections and services they wanted in the spaces. As our insight and understanding increases over time, accommodations will be made to service programming.

**Indicators of success:**

- Results of ongoing assessment so the space is in a continuous improvement cycle
- Positive feedback from faculty graduate students that this space is meeting their needs
- Usage statistics

---

**GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**

“Newsroom” connects passersby to video feeds; functions as screening room for campus.

The Georgetown University Library’s Millennium News Room improves student and faculty access to international perceptions of world and business events through the means of two plasma screens in the library’s lobby, featuring close-captioned news, financial, and C-SPAN channels, as well as broadcasting select campus events as they occur. The Library and other campus organizations regularly advertise their upcoming events on the screens. A separate screening
room off the lobby features an additional plasma screen and a comfortable environment in which to catch up on the latest news and events. The Library has shown films in the screening room to complement the Program in Performing Arts' Friday Music Series concert performances. Each screen location includes a sound system connected to a full complement of audio, video, and computer equipment. A web form allows the campus community to request specific news and information programming.

**Indicators of success:**

- # of people watching the screens

---

**GEORGIA TECH LIBRARY**

**Second-phase learning commons informed by massive student input.**

This renovated area complements the West Commons as a team-based support facility. Programming was derived from a multitude of user-centered discovery exercises, with considerable contributions and oversight from a student advisory council. The heterogeneous environment includes 40 workstations set up for collaborative work; study spaces that transform into lecture/ performance areas; micro-exhibits and student art; and power cords hanging from ceilings. All furniture is on wheels so students may contrive personalized configurations for collaboration as needed. The East Commons was mentioned as a key factor in the library winning the ARCL University Library of Excellence award in 2007. [http://librarycommons.gatech.edu/lec](http://librarycommons.gatech.edu/lec)

**Indicators of success:**

- Increased door count 25 %
- ACRL award winning
- Student documentaries and newspaper editorials extolling the space

---

**JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES**

**Center targets innovative teaching support for faculty and graduate students.**

The Center for Educational Resources within the Sheridan Libraries is an instructional support center for faculty and graduate students (with many undergraduate student employees working as student staff). The Center includes meeting space, big screen collaboration capabilities and multimedia development space. The mission of the Center for Educational Resources is to partner with faculty and graduate students to extend their instructional impact by connecting innovative teaching strategies and instructional technologies.
The Center’s mission aligns with the evolving role of university libraries as they advance from print-based repositories to electronic collaboratories that enable application of digital collections and networked services to new approaches in instructional and scholarly communication. Facilities are described in some detail on the Center website. [www.cer.jhu.edu](http://www.cer.jhu.edu)

**Indicators of success:**

- positive feedback from faculty and grad student "patrons"
- increasing demand for access to our resources

---

**UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY LIBRARIES**

**Retrofit of new library delivers commons facility for multimedia and general productivity.**

The University of Kentucky Libraries opened our information commons, the Hub, in March 2007. The target audience is undergraduate students. One of our noteworthy elements is our "video windows"—six projectors that display student art and other exhibits that rotate on a monthly basis. I’ve written more about the "video windows" here: [http://staceygreenwell.blogspot.com/2007/11/windows-in-basement.html](http://staceygreenwell.blogspot.com/2007/11/windows-in-basement.html)

Here is a general description of the Hub: Located in the basement of William T. Young Library, the Hub @ WT’s provides library research assistance and IT help in one convenient location. The Hub features over 200 Windows computers as well as a Mac lab for student use. Mac video editing suites with Final Cut Pro are now available, and two presentation practice rooms will be completed in spring 2008. The Hub offers flexible, comfortable furniture for students to arrange to meet their group study needs, including rolling cubicle walls and whiteboards. In addition, the Hub features snack and beverage machines in the lounge area. [http://www.uky.edu/Libraries/Hub](http://www.uky.edu/Libraries/Hub)

**Indicators of success:**

- Positive user feedback
- Positive user feedback
- Increased usage of the basement

---

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LIBRARY**

**Library Gallery showcases exhibits, programs, and personalities.**

Even as technological advances make it easier to disseminate commonly held library materials through digitization and electronic publishing initiatives, we also seek to improve access to the unique and remarkable treasures held in the Library. The new Gallery in the Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library is a beautiful...
room with floor-to-ceiling windows facing Michigan’s tree-lined diagonal, the center of the U-M campus. For forty years, this room housed a portion of the Library’s technical services operation. Modifications in Fall 2007 transformed this space into a flexible exhibit area, a library-specific classroom, and venues for collaborative learning. Future renovations will create display space that is secure and environmentally appropriate for exhibits of materials from our Special Collections Library. The Gallery allows us to mount exhibits; host lectures, presentations, and traveling exhibits; and collaborate with campus and community partners. The resulting program of exhibits and events is designed to enrich the intellectual, educational, and cultural life of the University of Michigan campus and larger community. Examples of recent and future events in the Gallery include:

- “A Conversation with Steven Levy”: Steven Levy, Senior News Editor at Newsweek, and Paul Courant, U-M University Librarian and Dean of Libraries, engage in a public conversation about the future of the book.
- "Letters to Sala: A Young Woman's Life in Nazi Labor Camps": This compelling collection of rare Holocaust-era letters and photographs is part of The New York Public Library's Dorot Jewish Division.
- "Whose Story Is It: How an Archive Was Transformed into an Exhibition, a Book, a Play, and a Documentary Film": This special program and reception features Jill Vexler, New York Public Library curator, and Ann Kirschner, Sala's daughter and author of "Sala's Gift".
- Russian Caricature Exhibit: This exhibit highlighted Russian caricature drawings from the 19th and 20th centuries.
- College of Pharmacy Student Presentations: Public review of poster presentations designed by College of Pharmacy students.
- "1968": This exhibit highlights materials from the Special Collections Library’s renowned Labadie Collection.

http://www.lib.umich.edu/spec-coll/

**Indicators of success:**

- Attendance at events is high; so is student use of collaborative space.
- We receive highly positive feedback on the space and the programming to date.
- Other campus units are approaching the library for use of the space and to collaborate with us on programming for the space.
**Michigan State University Libraries**

Exhibit spaces shared with campus units portray university riches.

Traditional physical exhibit spaces in wall or free standing cabinets on every floor of the West Wing of the Library include a constantly changing array of artifacts, featured publication and engaging explanatory text on topics of current interest to the university community. Under the direction of the exhibits coordinator, themed exhibits are developed and installed by both librarians and in collaboration with other campus units such as university undergraduate research, service learning and the provost’s office. Virtual "spaces" and guides often complement the exhibits; e.g., our exhibit on the Indonesian Tsunami was accompanied by an online research guide publicized by the provost's office to the entire university community. Our current exhibit on "Primary Sources" will be reproduced online and linked from our electronic resources page for use by distance learners and for library instruction. For example, see [http://www2.lib.msu.edu/features/?e=97](http://www2.lib.msu.edu/features/?e=97)

**Indicators of success:**
NA

**North Carolina State University Libraries**

Learning commons supports rich suite of production capabilities for students in media-rich surroundings.

The Learning Commons in D. H. Hill Library is a 14,000 square foot media-rich learning space that supports collaboration, group and individual study, research, communication, and socializing. NCSU undergraduate and graduate students are the targeted primary and secondary audiences for this new space. Services provided in the Learning Commons include:

- Reference and research assistance
- Print reference collection
- 105 workstations with 100+ productivity and specialty software applications, moveable furniture
- Two geospatial and numeric data workstations
- Multimedia and document scanning workstations and support
- Device lending (laptops, tablet PCs, audio and video iPods, iTouches, mp3 players, GPS devices, graphing calculators, digital cameras, digital camcorders, console video game controllers)
- Video gaming (Xbox 360, Wii, and PS3 consoles plus growing collection of games)
- Two group study rooms with wall-mounted 38” LCD monitors for group display
- Presentation practice room with ceiling-mounted LCD projector and Polyvision Write-and-Cite interactive whiteboard; and
• a network of 11 digital signs providing library and campus information as well as highlighting student- and faculty-submitted works.

The Commons hosts events and special activities, including video gaming competitions, study breaks, and welcome events for new and returning students. [http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/renovation/lc.html](http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/renovation/lc.html) [http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/learningcommons/index.php](http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/learningcommons/index.php)

**Indicators of success:**

• Increased usage
• Positive feedback from users (students, faculty, staff, student advisors, university library committee)
• New types of questions and requests for assistance.

---

**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.

---

**UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE KNOXVILLE LIBRARIES**

Richly comprised learning commons reflects advantages of collaborating with logical campus partners.

In the library’s commons, the targeted audiences are undergraduates and those who work with undergraduates. More specifically it is designed to accommodate both groups and individuals in a 24-hour space. Ours is an equal partnership (administratively and fiscally) between the University Libraries and the campus Office of Information Technology. Units offering services in the space include Reference, Circulation, Media Center, and Studio employees from the Libraries; and Lab Services, Help Desk, Innovative Technology Center from the Office of
Information Technology; and various academic service units that offer instruction or tutoring such as the Writing Center and the Stat Lab. The Student Success Center on campus also sets up informal tutoring sessions. Instructors often hold study group sessions in the Commons as well. We offer reference, circulation, media production services, paging services when the stacks are closed, a media collection, media reservations, and group media presentation rooms that may be reserved for classes by faculty. We check out laptops, scanners, disk drives, head phones, etc. We have about 150 desktop computers (PC and Mac) loaded with the same software offered in computer labs and we have about 50 laptops for circulation. The Help Desk offers assistance with wireless registration (the wireless network is available throughout the libraries), operating system and computer repair, password assistance, etc. The ITC supports the two practice presentation spaces available with Smart Sympodums and Smart Boards for reservation and provides assistance to faculty who are setting up Black board pages etc. We also offer digitizing services for instructors in support of teaching. Furnishings are geared to be flexible and the newly renovated space is divided in "pods" or zones to help with noise control (not all that successfully when the space is full at night). There are both mobile and fixed white boards, group rooms, and one enclosed room designated as quiet between the hours of midnight and 7:30. That same room acts as a faculty lounge and reception area during the day. There is a 24-hour Starbucks with an adjacent study lounge and there is a small store that sells supplies, food, and drink. http://commons.utk.edu/

Indicators of success:
NA

---

**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

---

**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN LIBRARIES**

**Student Learning Commons renovation features malleable furnishings and multi-purpose spaces.**

The new Student Learning Commons is a newly renovated space made possible by a generous gift from the University Federal Credit Union. We renovated a large space on the entry floor of the Perry-Castaneda Library, including new ergonomic, flexible (and movable) tables and chairs, new carpet, new wall and window treatments, and new lighting. We installed several modular group study pods that have proven to be an extremely popular way to increase group study space without building walls. The pods are wired for electricity and have dry erase boards built into the fabric walls. We also added new study tables wired for electricity, as well as adding dozens of additional outlets around the room. The entire space is covered by our wireless network. The room is also equipped with a retractable projection system and screen and can be reserved by student groups for events. The Libraries can also use the space for events as needed. This space is targeted at undergraduate students and is hugely popular as a study facility. It was designed to promote collaborative study, but interestingly students have claimed it as a quiet study space (except for the group study pods). We’ve also included a small (200 - 250 titles) popular magazine and journal collection in this space. http://www.lib.utexas.edu/pcl/commons/index.html

**Indicators of success:**

- Massively increased usage
- Positive feedback from students including pressure to renovate more library spaces in this manner
- Positive coverage in the student press
Scholars’ lab caters to digital research and scholarly analysis needs of faculty and advanced students in social sciences and humanities. (Alderman / Clemons Library)

Combines software applications for data analysis, geographic information systems, visual presentations, scanning and text encoding. Flexible workstations and space intended to facilitate individual or collaborative work. Target audience includes advanced undergraduates, graduate students, faculty and independent researchers. Staff provide expert assistance with all applications available on Scholars Lab workstations. Special events, speakers, and showcases enliven the center. [http://www.lib.virginia.edu/scholarslab/about/index.html](http://www.lib.virginia.edu/scholarslab/about/index.html)

Indicators of success:

- Successful centralization of IT and library services.
- Numbers of users for application rose significantly.
- Number of classes requested for software applications rose.
Study spaces incrementally improved.

We currently provide a variety of spaces for individual study and group discussion, ranging from quiet carrels to group study rooms. We have also set up, in response to student demand, a graduate student reading room and a silent study hall (the SSH!). We have also opened an in-library instruction room for student drop-in use of the computers (with student computer assistants). We have recently renovated some study areas, and have done this with the advice of student focus groups. We have, on their recommendation, included student art pieces as decorative elements.

Indicators of success:

- strong usage of spaces
- positive comments by users
- a lower noise level in study areas