INNOVATIVE SPACES IN ARL LIBRARIES:
RESULTS OF A 2008 STUDY

SUBTOPIC: PRESENTATION PRACTICE

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/
New classrooms increase attendance at library instruction sessions.

Two new teaching classrooms: a laptop classroom; a standard classroom. Both are wireless, etc., as well as a new presentation practice room. Classroom policies - tinyurl.com/29mt4p presentation practice room - tinyurl.com/2ywv2n

Indicators of success:

- Increased attendance at Library classes.
- Positive feedback from class evaluations.
- Increased suggestions for additional class topics.

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Presentation spaces accommodate groups of various sizes.

Two more presentation rooms were recently added to the Morgan Library Electronic Information Center (EIC), bringing the total number of presentation rooms to four. These presentation rooms are designed to accommodate small groups for study, research, and the development of class media presentations. In addition to seating 10 students comfortably, each presentation room has a computer, a ceiling-mounted projector and screen, and a whiteboard. http://lib.colostate.edu/infodesk/computers/presentationrooms.html

Indicators of success:

- High demand
- Positive feedback
- Requests for additional space

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Digital social science center provides consolidated service with specialists for scholar support.

In the Fall of 2008, the Libraries opened a Digital Social Science Center in the Lehman Social Science Library. The objectives for the Center are:

- Provide flexible workspaces, furnishings, diverse software, and high equipment to support collaborative group study and research in the Social Sciences
- Provide visible and easy access to professional staff who can assist users with research and technical support questions
- Provide space, equipment, and software to support presentation practice
• Integrate DSSC into the services and equipment now offered by EDS and the CUIT lab.  

**Indicators of success:**

• Positive user feedback  
• Intensive use of the space

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**Dartmouth College Library**

Library collaborates with other units to support undergraduate group work, writing, and research needs.

We relocated our Document Delivery services and repurposed existing space on our main service floor of Baker-Berry Library to be a shared collaborative space. This room has video projection, a variety of group workspaces, the ability to share information on multiple laptops, converts to a practice presentation space, and for approximately 30 hours / week is the space for our student peer tutoring center. This is a collaborative effort with the Writing Program, Library, and Academic Computing, which is called the Research, Writing, and Information Technology Center [RWIT].  
  http://www.dartmouth.edu/~rwit/index.html

**Indicators of success:**

• RWIT Center is fully scheduled most available timeslots, including beginning parts of the term  
• Other campus partners are interested in joining and supporting this collaboration [Career Services, for instance]

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**University of Georgia Libraries**

Large-scale, collaborative learning center combines classrooms with extensive study environments.

Opening in 2003, the Student Learning Center is the heart of undergraduate education at the University of Georgia. The SLC houses an electronic library and 26 classrooms. The library provides seating for 2,240 students with 500 workstations and 2,000 connections for laptops. Ninety-five group study rooms, a media presentation practice room, and a digital media lab are also available. The SLC is open 24 hours and is staffed with librarians and computer consultants. Information literacy instruction is offered in four advanced learning labs. The building promotes research and study. A non-circulating leisure reading collection containing classics and new works is also located in a traditional wood paneled Reading Room. Partnerships with two university divisions are facilitated through the sharing space in this building. Part of the
University’s classroom support unit, the Center for Teaching and Learning, resides here. The campus computer center also maintains staff in the building and supervises the student computer consultants. A coffee shop completes the list of amenities the facility offers. 
http://slc.uga.edu/facility.html

Indicators of Success:

- Students "live" in this building, they have made it their own
- Usage is very heavy throughout the semester; fy2007 boasted 2.25 million as the gate count.
- Students and faculty are enthusiastic about the study and classroom space

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**GEORGIA TECH LIBRARY**

Learning Commons delivers popular productivity environment.

The Library West Commons is a renovation of a light-suffused space that had become underutilized in recent years. It is located adjacent to the consolidated reference desk, and offers 115 computer workstations, twenty-five of which have high-end multimedia software. All run a robust selection of applications supporting coursework. Technology infrastructure is provided by the campus computer center. Walk-up user support for information and technology assistance draws on experts from the library and the computer center. A presentation practice space completes this facility. Lessons learned in the West Commons informed programming for the East Commons. 
http://librarycommons.gatech.edu/lwc/index.php

Indicators of success:

- Increased door count by 65%
- ACRL award winning
- Improvements to student productivity and multimedia skill sets garnering faculty praise

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**INDIANA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES BLOOMINGTON**

One of first comprehensive information commons continues to inspire students.

The Information Commons (IC) is a place for students to interact, get technology support and research assistance, attend technology and research workshops or classes, and work in groups together or individually on course assignments. The IC supports and enhances student learning and research by providing state of the art technology and resources in an academic environment 24 hours a day.
The IC provides various learning environments to accommodate the diverse learning styles and needs of students including:

- **First floor**: bustling group and individual workstations, large scale color printing, multimedia equipment, and two service points that support reference, software help, circulation, and hardware support
- **Second floor**: space for quiet individual work at computer workstations or wired tables and access to the undergraduate Core Collection
- **Third floor**: quiet reading room with comfortable booths, large tables, and more of the undergraduate Core Collection
- **Fourth floor**: group study space with open tables and access to group study rooms as well as practice presentation rooms, and video conference rooms. [http://ic.indiana.edu/](http://ic.indiana.edu/)

**Indicators of success:**

- increased usage
- positive user feedback

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**UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LIBRARIES**

**Learning center combines practice space, multimedia support, team facilities, and research and technical assistance.**

The reference area in the Parks Library (near the new Bookends Cafe) was remodeled, re-purposed, and transformed into the Learning Connections Center. This new service point is designed to respond to today’s student learning styles and to provide collaborative spaces for small group study and research. A grant from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust serves as a catalyst for transforming traditional facilities and services provided in the Library into collaborative and new media workspaces with expert assistance nearby. The reference book collection was reduced in size and is now housed in the Reference area (A-J) and in the nearby Tier 2 (K-Z). Space was cleared for several new activities: collaborative workspaces, multimedia production studios, and research and technical assistance. A presentation practice room permits individuals and small groups to practice classroom presentations. Specially designed workstations allow groups of 3-5 students to share a computer and workspace for team-oriented projects. Multimedia production studios allow individuals and groups to use state-of-the-art production hardware/software to create media products for their classes. The reference desk itself was relocated and is staffed by subject specialists and media/IT staff and students to help users with research and technical questions. With the addition of collaborative workspaces and media production facilities, the Library offers many different study/research options, from individual computer workstations and quiet study carrels to wired tables for laptop/group study, group study rooms, the cafe, and a designated quiet study room on the second floor. No matter what the mood, the Library has the space.
Indicators of success:

• increased usage
• groups utilizing space
• positive user feedback

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:

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

Indicators of success:

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

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LIBRARY

Technology infuses learning spaces.

• Collaborative Technology Laboratories (Main Library and branch) offer high-tech, multimedia, group work spaces available for reservation by all university constituencies with NetID and password.
• Presentation Lab: Practice and Video and Audio Record Speeches and Presentations. Playback in the room or take the DVD with you. Use the Interactive Smart Board and computer to enhance group work and collaborative efforts.
• Smartboard Labs: Use Interactive Smart Boards and computer with array of software to enhance group work and collaborative efforts.
• Intel Mac Dual Boot Lab: 2 Intel Macs which can boot into Windows XP or Mac OSX. A moveable table and power outlets for using laptops, as well as a chalk board is also available. Software to enhance the creative processes is provided, including programs for audio and video editing, graphic design, CAD, Web design and 3D editing. Interactive

• Whiteboard Lab: Whiteboard that can save your work, print your work, or save it to the web. Also includes an Intel Mac computer that is both a Mac and a PC. Software to enhance the creative processes, including programs for audio and video editing, graphic design, CAD, Web design and 3D editing.

• Plasma Screen, Mac & PC Lab: Plasma screen to instantly access files, run applications, highlight key points and capture new thoughts by touching the screen. Share meeting with video conferencing capabilities. Print professional quality presentations, posters, and documents in vivid colors and sizes. Software to enhance the creative processes is provided, including programs for audio and video editing, graphic design, CAD, Web design and 3D editing.

• Engineering Library (branch) has two types of labs: * 2 labs with Smart Boards - use the Interactive Smart Board and DECS applications computers to enhance group work and collaborative efforts (CTLs 1 & 2) * 2 labs with large monitors and DECS applications computers (CTLs 3 & 4). [http://www2.lib.msu.edu/computer/ctlabs.jsp](http://www2.lib.msu.edu/computer/ctlabs.jsp)

Indicators of success:
NA

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**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LIBRARIES**

**SMART Learning Commons and Media Services (Walter Library).**

SMART Walter shares the same goals and programs as the other SMART locations, but will also house the newly defined Libraries’ Media Center. We are transitioning an old facility called the Learning Resources Center (essentially a traditional library media center) to a more forward-looking version of this service. We relocated all media except for DVDs and videotapes to free up space for student use; DVDs and videos are in open stacks and available for check-out in addition to classroom booking. We have mid-level multimedia creation stations for student use. There is also a small group viewing room that doubles as a practice presentation room for students. None of this is terribly new; the more innovative idea we plan to pilot is making available peer consultants for research in the same way SMART now provides peer consulting for math, chemistry, etc. [http://smart.umn.edu/](http://smart.umn.edu/)

Indicators of success:
NA
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/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.
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/

**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 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 Sympodiums 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 WASHINGTON LIBRARIES

Tools and support for collaboration on multimedia products creates popular destination.

Within the Odegaard Undergraduate Library and Learning Commons, there are several technology-enhanced spaces where students come to collaborate and to create multi-media projects using the facilities to digitally edit text, audio and video, capture and create streaming presentations, and participate in video conferencing:

- Collaboration Studios (using Tidebreak TeamSpot software) facilitates collaboration through a shared desktop displayed on a large 52” plasma screen, visible to all group members. Group members have remote control of the shared desktop through their own computers. The software also allows the sharing of files and information between the shared desktop and any of the member's computers with a simple “click and drag” operation.
- Digital Audio Workstation provides high-end professional tools for recording and editing audio. The DAW has a comprehensive set of hardware and software that can handle a project, regardless of size, from tracking and editing all the way through the mastering and duplication phases.
- The Digital Presentation Studio (DPS) is a space to practice presentations, and record those sessions for later review. The DPS is made up of a presentation laptop connected to a plasma display, a mounted camera with microphone system, and a simple control station to start and stop the recording. The room also provides a small seating area for an audience.
- Odegaard Videoconference Studio (OVS) allows groups that are geographically separated to meet and collaborate through the use of video conferencing technologies. The studio is designed to be flexible and can accommodate connectivity with most far end locations.

Indicators of success:

- Usage
- User feedback
- Instructor feedback
Renovation informed by user-centered programming.

We are planning a "Learning Commons" that will bring together in the Library not only research help but also computing, writing and general learning skills assistance. Considerable user-centered discovery is informing the emerging shape of spaces, services, and resources that will be offered. Aside from the individual and group spaces we now have, we anticipate some small windowed consultation rooms, some group rooms set up for practicing of presentations, and perhaps a lower-light area for digital multimedia editing.

**Indicators of success:**

- strong usage of partner services (e.g. writing and learning skills assistance)
- strong usage of the area or facilities
- positive comments from users