Designing Libraries: Strategic Alignment with Culture & Mission

Joan K. Lippincott, Coalition for Networked Information
Mississippi Library Association/ACRL Spring Meeting
Online Presentation May 25, 2017
Theme

• Thinking about the role of the library in the university/college
  – Library as place
  – Library’s role in teaching & learning
  – Library’s role in research
Building new institutional places
A beacon of learning

U. Calgary Taylor Family Digital Library
A place of campus pride
An inspirational place to focus on academic work among peers
A comfortable place for reflection

U. Richmond
An Academic/Social Place

U. Rhode Island Library
A Gathering Place
A place to frequent

Odegaard Library – U. Washington
A place to belong

Hunt Library – North Carolina State U.
Astronaut Farmer

Here's the man who studies philosophy on a tractor perched high on his motorized throne — King and Caretaker of the land. Row after row of GPS synchronization give him time to think, question, to idealize and formulate the future. Dreams grow like stalks of wheat: under a sky so full of celestial life he can't help but ponder: the existence of life on Earth, intricate human consciousness, the possibility of galactic conversations: thoughts in the middle of nowhere that to the rest of the planet have little worth. But at the end of the workday the farmer is content to love the questions themselves. Because work needs to be done on the land extraterrestrial thoughts can wait.

Sure, it's pleasant to understand the electromagnetic spectrum but a spectrum of down-to-earth skills must be understood, too, while the tires roll and the hydraulics pump, while the body breaks time and space at sixteen miles per hour — yep, the examined life in a plaid jacket.

Gavin Schneider is a student of the Earth, owner of two goats, and a bicycle enthusiast from the distant planet of Venus, Alberta. He is currently teaching his 4th year in the Department of Geography.

TO SUBMIT YOUR POEM FOR THE AUTUMN 2015 COMPETITION, OR FOR INFORMATION: masboyd@ucalgary.ca | www.ucalgary.ca/poemoftheseason

U. Calgary TFDL
A place to celebrate language
A place to celebrate reading
A place to connect with heritage
A place to recognize culture
A place to make connections to history & collections

Connecticut College Library

Photo courtesy of W. Lee Hisle
The strategic value of place

• How does the library as place add value to the institution?
  – Pride
  – Cultural and intellectual hub
  – Community

• What can you include in your space to increase the value of your library as place?
Library & Teaching & Learning

Provide spaces for collaboration
Support group class projects
Partner on reconfiguring course assignments
Promote technology skill development
Provide spaces for implementing new pedagogies
Provide tech & expertise for making
“The Fusion Studio’s open layout is designed to promote interdisciplinary thinking and collaboration. It is inspired by, “Beyond Boundaries: A 2047 Vision,” which was created by President Timothy Sands and imagines the future of the university.”
Working with programs/departments

• Develop genuine partnerships to benefit students

• Conduct needs assessment that include identification of new areas of the curriculum, new types of assignments, gaps in support

• Identify programmatic initiatives that are important to institutional leaders and work with them
Where do library places fit in the research mission of the university or college?

Making Special Collections Visible
Invite people into Special Collections
Provide high end technologies and expertise
Program spaces for digital project work

Digital Tool Shed
Claremont College Libraries
Build game development labs

Hunt Library – North Carolina State U.
Offer GIS and other specialized software & expertise
Promote services & expertise
Partner with faculty on visualization
Display the research process

Process:

- Process the data/clean and apply google map to location based information tables
- Develop data sets for open source concept mapping tool 'Gephi'
- Render data sets in Gephi using preset algorithms
- Export self contained html/javascript concept tool
- Host files on web server
- Survey communities for feedback
- Evaluate / revise tools
Engage interest
Make connections

Smithsonian Air & Space Museum
Strategies

• Work closely with faculty on priority areas
• Promote the library’s expertise
What can **library** spaces contribute to the institution?

- Mission to support (e-)research and (digital) scholarship
- Mission to support teaching and learning
- Bring together expensive technologies for use by all
- Bring together expertise to serve all campus departments and colleges
- Support students independently or through coursework
- Facilitate partnerships
Make the most of your opportunity

• Strategic alignment with your institution’s
  – Mission
  – Priorities
  – Culture
Planning resource: Learning Space Toolkit

http://learningspacetoolkit.org/
Planning resource: LSC Guide

http://www.pkallsc.org/assets/files/LSCGuide-PlanningforAssessing%281%29.pdf
Planning resource: Learning Space Rating System

Overview

The Learning Space Rating System (LSRS) project provides a set of measurable criteria to assess how well the design of classrooms support and enable active learning activities. Noting the success of several architectural programs to promote sustainable building design, the LSRS provides a scoring system to serve as an indicator of how well a classroom’s design serves the goal of active learning. The LSRS criteria form the basis for a rating system that will allow institutions to benchmark their environments against best practices within the higher education community.

This current version of the LSRS measures formal learning spaces, but future versions will include informal spaces and more specialized spaces. The information in the About section contains more detailed background and information on the LSRS project. In the Resources section, you will find articles, websites, and other resources relevant to the project. We

http://www.educause.edu/eli/initiatives/learning-space-rating-system
Planning resource: FLEXspace

https://sites.google.com/site/flexspacedev/
Planning inspiration


ENCODING SPACE
SHAPING LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS THAT UNLOCK HUMAN POTENTIAL
Stephanie A. Leigh and Dorothy Lengnick-Hall
Upcoming events

• Designing Libraries VI – North Carolina State University – Raleigh, NC on September 17-19, 2017

• CNI/ARL Planning a Digital Scholarship Center Workshop – Brown University – Providence, RI on November 8-10, 2017
Thank you!

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- All photos are my own unless otherwise indicated
- Photo: Joan visiting The CURVE@Georgia State U.