Third Space, Third Place:
Libraries at the Center of Campus Life

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Coalition for Networked Information

University of Nebraska
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U. British Columbia
Building a sense of community: The Third Place

- A place outside of home or workplace
- Free or inexpensive
- Welcoming & comfortable
- Highly inclusive – a “mixer”
- Food (usually)
- Intellectual fora

“Nothing contributes so much to one’s sense of belonging to a community as much as ‘membership’ in a third place.”

Ray Oldenburg, The Great Good Place, 1999
Inviting community in outdoor spaces

U. Colorado, Boulder

UC Santa Cruz
Cornell Mann Library Garden
Art for Inspiration at Northwestern U.
Charles Addams at Penn State U. Libraries
Catalog Art at U. Colorado, Boulder
Book Art at Deakin U. - Australia

Photo courtesy of Deakin U. Library
Food for students studying many hours

U. Toronto Missisauga

U. Calgary
Places to meet with students and faculty

Duke U. Library Cafe
Places with a sense of humor – building community
Building community virtually
My #HuntLibrary on Instagram

http://d.lib.ncsu.edu/myhuntlibrary
Places that have affective messaging

Sign above Reference Desk at NC State Raleigh Library
Planning Questions: Community

● How can you make your space welcoming, comfortable, and inspiring?
● How can you encourage your users to see the library as a place to develop community?
● How do you signal the unique library aspects of your Third Place?
Libraries provide spaces to support the active, social aspects of learning

U. Utah

Georgia Tech
Spaces like these where students can create digital projects

GIS Station – NC State U.  
Media Commons – U. Virginia
Guiding principles

- Learning is an active, not passive process
- Individuals do not learn in isolation – learning is a social process
- Learners build on a foundation of previous knowledge and understandings to achieve deeper learning
## Relationship of spaces to learning

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A range of spaces for groups

U. Pennsylvania

Tilburg U. - Netherlands
Spaces where students can get work done together

U. Virginia

UNC Charlotte
More options for groups

Oregon State U.  NC State Hill Library
Clearly delineating quiet spaces is important, too.
Spaces for problem-based learning

“Solving problems on the frontiers of science does two things: it motivates students tremendously, and has a very interesting impact on identity.”

Wendy Newstetter, Georgia Tech

http://www.pkal.org/documents/PBL_GeorgiaTech.cfm

U. Washington Group Study Room
Learning takes place both inside and outside the classroom

- Providing spaces where students can share ideas in public locations promotes peer learning
- These settings can also serve as areas for informal teaching sessions

U. Washington Research Commons
Active experimentation with new technologies in public spaces encourages people to learn from one another.

NC State Technology Sandbox

U. Calgary Digital Media Commons
INNOVATION STUDIO
RULES

- Speak up
- Fail big
- Expect the unexpected
- There are no bad ideas
- No experts share often
- Collaborate always
- Stumbling is important
- Try everything twice
- Be inspired by adversity
- Tell a story
- Change hats
- Color outside the lines
- Make metaphors
- Question everything
Inspiring curiosity

Intellectual curiosity is a strong predictor of future academic performance

“’A hungry mind’ is a core determinant of individual differences in academic achievement”

Based on meta-analysis of 200 studies

*Perspectives on Psychological Science* as reported in *CHE*, 10/27/11

MIT Stata Center
Make Special Collections Visible

U. Chicago Library

Special Collections Displays
Developing and supporting new types of assignments provides opportunities for students to combine content & technology.

Assignment development – information commons staff work with faculty

Instructional program – staff provide workshops

Facility – high-end equipment and trained staff are available for follow-up

Outreach – annual workshop of faculty presentations on their course assignments

Media Center – U. Pennsylvania
Close ties to the curriculum help libraries engage students

McMaster U. Lyons Media Centre

Facility: Gaming room supports 3 academic programs that study game creation and use

Collection: Games are available in adjacent area

Services: Staff support technology and use in coursework
Faculty/student involvement in planning takes into account curricular interests

“We can’t wait for the Hunt Library to open so we can further bolster our program by using the whole ecosystem of visualization spaces in the building,” Michael Young, Assoc. Prof. Computer Science whose classes design large-scale games.
Specialized spaces can support academic programs

U. Toronto Mississauga Finance Learning Centre

Encourages active, experiential learning

Specialized information resources

Dual screen workstations

Available for class/workshops and walk-in use
Develop active learning classrooms in the library

U. Richmond Library

U. Calgary Library
Spaces for formal and informal learning
Partnering with Other Campus Services

- Is the library providing space to other services primarily for students’ convenience?
- Do you want to co-locate, cooperate, or collaborate?
- Can the library **collaborate** with partners to provide enhanced learning services to students?
Planning Questions: Teaching & Learning

- What can the library provide that enhances the teaching and learning capabilities of academic departments?

- How are you integrating instruction and individual assistance into technology-enabled spaces?

- How can you support student success?
Planning Suggestions: Gain a Deeper Understanding of Your User Community

- Understand your students’ study, active learning, and specialized learning needs
- Focus attention on curriculum and faculty
  - Gather information on the direction of the curriculum
  - Target faculty who give or would like to give assignments that have a strong information resources component
- Develop specialized spaces and services for particular groups and needs – one size does not fit all at all times
Research: Creating Places for Graduate Students and Faculty
Digital Scholarship Centers Support Graduate and Faculty Work

Offer a range of services

- Fellowships
- Cohort of students
- Daily interaction with staff

- Workshops, courses, certificate programs
- One-on-one consultation
- Online tutorials
- Create a community

U. Va. Scholars’ Lab

http://www2.lib.virginia.edu/scholarslab/
Libraries Can Provide Spaces for Talking through Ideas

Think Tank

U. Virginia Scholars’ Lab
Libraries Provide Public Spaces for Creating and Disseminating Scholarship

Sponsored summer institute

UCLA Library
Libraries Can Invite Users to Interact with Big Data

- “As we create more and more digital content, there’s a question of how do you get people to even realize we have it and then to interact with it in new ways.” Sayeed Choudhury, JHU Libraries
Libraries Can Showcase Research Output and Library Resources

Mann Library, Cornell U.  McMaster U.
Posters Displayed in the Library Highlight Research

U. Washington

Penn State
“But one thing we do right: we encourage those who use the library to feel a sense of personal agency within a communal setting...They are invited to make their own meaning with the assistance of all of that knowledge that others have produced. There’s something satisfying about being in a library pursuing one’s own questions, but in that solitary quest, there is also a sense of belonging to a broader purpose.”

Barbara Fister, Inside Higher Ed blogpost 3/28/13

http://www.insidehighered.com/blogs
Planning Questions: Research and Scholarship

- What can you provide to enhance research capabilities of graduate students and faculty?
- How can you celebrate the research achievements of your community, especially drawing attention to the links between research and information?
- How can you heighten awareness of what the library offers?
Planning suggestions: keep things in balance
When your building project is completed, will people say:

“This library attracts ideas!”

Donna Livingstone, U. Calgary
Thank you!

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