Space Collaboration:
Positioning the Library at the Center of Teaching, Learning, and Research

Thomas C. Wilson
Associate Dean for Library Technology
Gorgas Library Background:

- humanities & social sciences
- instruction so far this term
  - 136 sessions
  - serving ~ 2,600 students
  - typical
- in the past Osburn Room only
  - seats 24
  - instructor station & projector
  - open area, not enclosed room
- challenges
  - back-to-back classes
  - scheduling conflicts
  - noisy
  - not conducive to small groups
  - inefficient space utilization for small groups
  - larger space available, but no hands-on computers
Meanwhile, back at UA:

~ Testing Services
  • standardized testing service
  • reports to Provost
  • out of space
  • increased demand
  • service and financial issues
  • land-locked

~ Faculty Resource Center
  • technical & instructional development
  • Office of Information Technology
  • expand offerings & hours
  • simultaneous sessions
  • longer support hours
  • land-locked
Testing Services Collaboration:

- Gorgas Library
  - has space
  - needs instructional room
  - needs more computers

- Testing Services
  - out of space
  - needs a controlled lab environment
  - rebuffed by other campus units

- Provost
  - wants to resolve the issues
  - wants to keep units productive
  - has $$$

- Perfect Storm of Collaboration
Testing Lab Plan:

~ Testing Services needs
  • divided carols for privacy
  • proctor’s workstation / desk
  • user lockers
  • room with no distractions
  • priority scheduling

~ Gorgas Library needs
  • instructor’s podium with controls
  • screen & projector
  • pay-for-print setup
  • sense of openness / light

~ Result
  • 24 user computers
  • podium / laptop, desk / computer
  • projector & electric screen
  • many windows with adjustable shades
  • online scheduling software
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FRC Collaboration:

~ Gorgas Library
  - has space
  - needs small group room

~ Faculty Resource Center
  - out of space
  - needs secondary location
  - also supports classroom technology
  - needs space with longer hours

~ Perfect Storm of Collaboration

Proposed “FRC2”
“FRC2” Plan:

~ Intimate space
  • accommodate up to 8 people
  • highly configurable
  • 4 pc / 3 Mac laptops
  • 52” HD monitor / tv

~ Gorgas Library uses
  • small groups of faculty / grad students
  • instruction, development, awareness

~ Faculty Resource Center
  • second central location
  • faculty development seminars
  • grad students for evening support

~ BUT,
  • FRC proposal still hanging
  • Other uses ....
Enter New CIO:

~ Questions relative cost of proposal
  • bang for the buck
  • already expanding FRC “in situ”

~ Instead, wants Access Grid node
  • needs campus buy-in
  • needs a central location
  • must be cross-disciplinary
  • has $$$

~ Revised perfect storm
  • “FRC2” to become AG node as well
  • additional hardware
  • better connectivity
  • makes resource even more attractive
AccessGrid.org

The Access Grid® is an ensemble of resources including multimedia large-format displays, presentation and interactive environments, and interfaces to Grid middleware and to visualization environments. These resources are used to support group-to-group interactions across the Grid.
Outcomes:

~ Testing Lab
- popular access point
- useful instruction room
- Testing Services begins use in May
- Digital Literacy Contest later in April

~ “FRC2”
- Library GTA development
- Center for Teaching & Learning
- Access Grid node now ready
- internal / external collaborations
Lessons Learned:

- Bring something valuable and needed to the table.
- Be open to non-traditional partners.
- Be flexible enough to change plans on-the-fly.
- Leverage multiple needs from disparate units.
- Build on what you have.
- Match room configuration to uses.
- Make it mutually beneficial.
- Once completed, market it like crazy.
Future Opportunities:

- Larger Access Grid configuration
- Geo-spatial Information System
- Large-format multi-touch monitors
- 3-D interactive visualization
Thank you!

Thomas C. Wilson  
Associate Dean for Library Technology  
tcwilson@ua.edu

www.lib.ua.edu