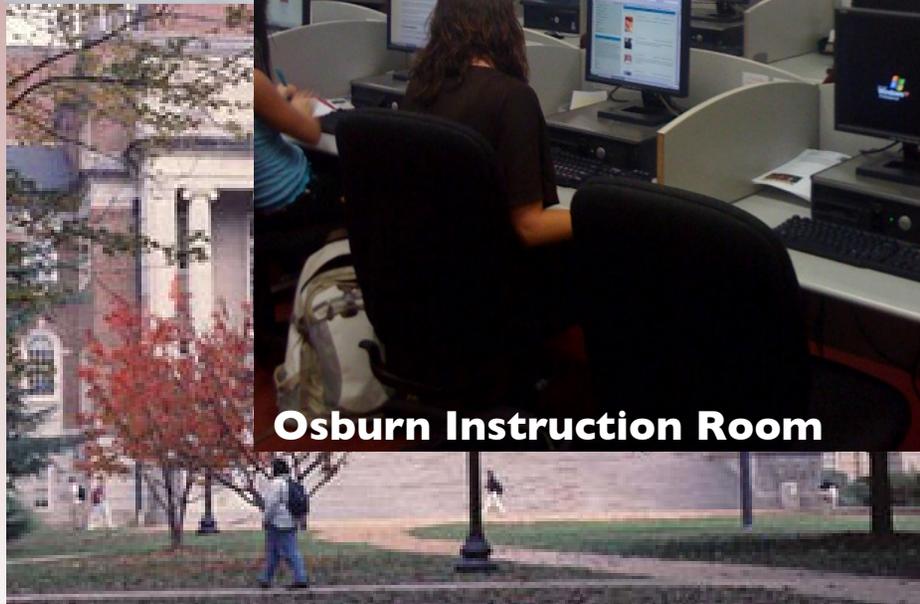# Space Collaboration:
Positioning the Library at the Center of Teaching, Learning, and Research

Thomas C. Wilson
Associate Dean for Library Technology

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Osburn Instruction Room

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

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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

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Proposed space for new lab

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

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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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Proposed "FRC2"

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

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"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 ....

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Enter New CIO:

~ Questions relative cost of proposal
  * bang for the buck
  * already expanding FRC "in situ"

~ Instead, wants <u>Access Grid</u> 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

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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.

Return

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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
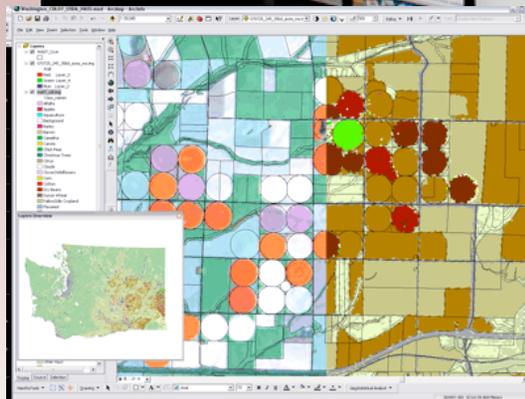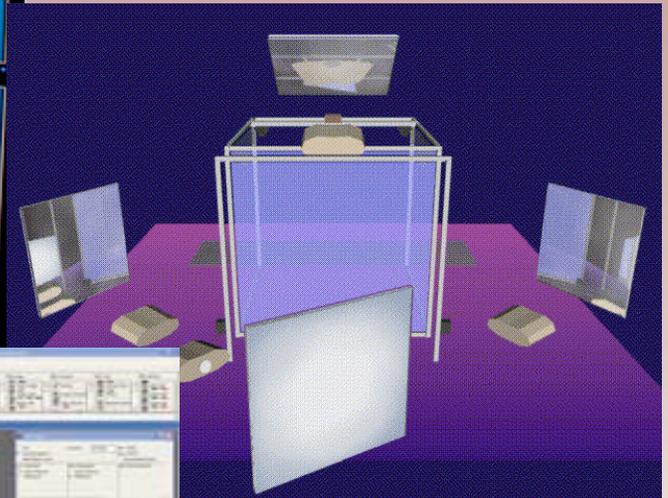 - * internal / external collaborations

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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.

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Future Opportunities:

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

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Thank you!

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