

**Oregon State University Libraries  
Valley Library Information Commons**

**1. Developing the Concept of the Information Commons**

The concept was to showcase the university's potential in technology by providing in one location the traditional, the innovative, and the experimental. Librarians, other Information Services staff, and users viewed the Information Commons as a critical component in meeting OSU's goal of creating a compelling learning experience for students, staff, and faculty.

- Design based on user surveys as well as library and computing staff participation
- Detailed technology and service plans developed in 1997 and 1998 by Information Services staff organized in teams

**2. Real Life Intervenes**

- Severe budget cuts, reorganizations, staffing changes
- Building project value-engineering and delays

**3. The Design Partly Realized**

The Information Commons opened in April 1999 with reduced staffing, equipment, and support. Plans put on hold, but not abandoned.

**4. The Information Commons Today**

An overview of the services provided is available at <<http://osulibrary.orst.edu/computing>>. Color-coded maps of the Information Commons and the second floor of the Valley Library are available at <<http://osulibrary.orst.edu/floormaps>>.

- Desk Services – technical assistance, reference, consulting
- Technical support
- Equipment -- laptops, SunRays, Windows 2000 thin clients, applications computers, adaptive workstations, printers
- Autzen Classroom
- Multimedia

**5. Challenges and Future Directions**

- Updating technology
- Service issues—staffing, training, cooperation among technology providers
- Group study
- Security
- More multimedia

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