The Continuing Evolution of Library High Technology Collaborative Spaces:

Infocommons, Digital Scholarship Centers, Makerspaces, and More

Martin Halbert (University of North Texas)
Joan Lippincott (Coalition for Networked Information)
Liz Milewicz (Duke University)

CNI Spring Meeting
Tuesday, April 4, 2017
Albuquerque, NM
Session Overview

- “What are libraries now planning as they move to take new steps beyond the information commons?” Summary findings from survey and book project about current facilities and programs. (Martin Halbert, 15 min)

- “Challenges and opportunities today.” Presentation and group discussion. (Joan Lippincott, 20 min)

- “Challenges and opportunities for tomorrow.” Presentation and group discussion. (Liz Milewicz, 20 min)

- Concluding Q&A
Group Research Projects and Monographs

- **A Field Guide to the Information Commons (2009 monograph)**
  - Sought to document the emerging trend of “Commons” facilities/programs, both nationally and internationally
  - Included both analytical chapters by various specialists and two dozen entries on specific instances, with comparative information

- **Beyond the Information Commons**
  - Planned as a second edition to the 2009 volume, now moving in new directions
  - Because there are now so many new kinds of high technology enabled spaces (makerspaces, digital scholarship centers, etc.), new book aims to more inclusively document the many new kinds of facilities and the reasons for creating them
First Questions:

Raise your hand if your institution has a facility or program that you call one of the following:

1. [Information/Learning/Knowledge/Something Else] “Commons”
2. “Makerspace”
3. “Digital Scholarship Center”
4. [Some other catchy phrase] (if so, what?)
Relatively New, Relatively Big

- Most of the commons in this sample were established fairly recently, about ten years ago; the average year was 2006.

- Most of the facilities were renovated or overhauled one or more times in the last decade.

- While there is a lot of variation in size, the average is 16K square feet, or for a conceptual gross space picture, a square roughly 125 feet on a side.
Extended Hours, Service Points, Computers

- These commons are open on average roughly 120 hours per week, or in other words, over 70% of the time in a week - fairly long hours.

- They were manned on average around 100 hours per week - again, long hours.

- Most of them had more than one service point.

- There was extreme variation in number of desktop computers, but most had dozens.

- On average they had about half as many laptops as desktop computers.
Heavy Transactional Usage

- These facilities are heavily used, with tens of thousands of entries per month.
- On average, roughly half of the entries seem to have had an associated service transaction, typically.
- On average, roughly 75% of the entries seem to have had an associated logon to a computer.
THANK YOU!

Martin Halbert, University of North Texas
Martin.Halbert@unt.edu
How do library spaces reflect what libraries offer today?

U. Illinois Chicago

UCLA Young Research Library
How will you demonstrate the value libraries bring to learning?

- Overall, are you very positive about the role and nature of your information/learning commons in the library?

- In your institution?

U. Utah Marriott Library
Challenges and Opportunities for Discussion

- What did you imagine for your first iteration information/learning commons?
  - Collaborative learning environment
  - Technology-rich learning hub
  - An academic/social space
  - A one-stop place for library and campus services
  - Living room of the campus

- How did you anticipate the information/learning commons would integrate library resources and services into learning?
What kinds of library facilities have an impact on learning?
Continuing Evolution Discussion

- What would take your information/learning commons to the next level? What does that mean?
  - Demonstrating value and/or impact
  - Incorporating new features/services/technologies
  - Other?
Are Makerspaces Part of an Information Commons?

Hill Library NCSU
Are Digital Scholarship Centers Part of an Information Commons?

Claremont Colleges Libraries Digital Tool Shed
How should we organize spaces/services/technologies?

- Workstations for group projects
- Group rooms
- Informal spaces for conversation
- Cafes
- Space for long term project work
- Consultation areas
- Workshop areas
- Project display area
- Areas for receptions/readings
- Visualization walls
- Makerspaces
- Media production areas
- Specialized hardware – plotters, scanners, dual monitor computers
- Specialized software – GIS, statistical analysis, visualization
- Augmented/virtual reality facilities
- Work areas for fellows
- Staff space
Thank you!

- Joan K. Lippincott
- joan@cni.org
- https://www.cni.org/about-cni/staff/joan-k-lippincott

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

Laying the groundwork for future innovations in library spaces
Reframing “missed opportunities”

How are libraries challenged to provide the research and learning experiences desired by users?
## Connections, Gaps, & Partnerships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spaces</th>
<th>Technology</th>
<th>Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Groups</td>
<td>Workstations for groups</td>
<td>Café</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal, conversational</td>
<td>Visualization walls</td>
<td>Consultation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term projects</td>
<td>Makerspaces</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project display</td>
<td>Media production tools</td>
<td><em>Many, many more,</em> right?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receptions / readings</td>
<td>Specialized &amp; software</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td><em>More</em>...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting researchers</td>
<td><em>More</em>...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>More</em>...</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New services

- Data curation
- Data visualization
- Digitization
- Project management
- Publishing
- Scholarly communication
New roles & relationships

- Distributed services
- Functional networks
- Broad partnerships (intra- and inter-institutional)
- Partners and leaders in research
- Entrepreneurial development
We’re not upgrading the library, we’re rewriting the source code.

Brian Mathews, 2012, Too Much Assessment, Not Enough Innovation
What barriers have you overcome in order to evolve the role of your organization and your staff?

What barriers remain, & how might you address them?
THANK YOU!

@LizMilewicz
liz.milewicz@duke.edu