From Transaction to Collaboration: Scholarly Communications Design at UConn Library

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Ask Questions, Explore Opportunities

• UConn Library mission: create a “culture of learning and exploration [in a] multidisciplinary hub of activity”
• A community, inspirational, and inventive space that is home to all
• At the intersection of content and research.
Shifting Landscape of Research and Expression

Research
• Digital is preferred
• Collections are data that can be manipulated
• Shareable, reusable, and interoperable information resources

Expression
• From print to multi-modal
• Visualization is storytelling
• Shifting publishing models
• Changing reward systems
The Shifting Landscape and the Library

- Informs our interest to collaborate in new ways
- Question the nature of what it means to be a library and a librarian
- Question the traditional rewards system
Building a culture of collaboration
• Collaborative workflows
• Equitable labor hierarchies
• Multi-modal expression
• Testing collaborative spaces
• Persistence of the scholarly record

Projects are not the only product
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- Combines multiple mental models of knowledge creation
- Participatory from the beginning
- Individual participation may be based on official skill set, content knowledge, network knowledge
• Design based
• Inquiry driven
• Collaboration first rather than a series of handoffs
• Close, equitable communication among equal partners
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• Begins with a team of people and an inquiry-focused prompt posed externally by Greenhouse Studios

• Puts people and collaboration at the center of the process, rather than the needs of a particular faculty researcher.
Expected Outcomes
The Product is a community of interdisciplinary collaborators comprised of faculty, librarians, designers, developers, students, and others at UConn along with colleagues from the publishing community and other institutions.
• UConn Library in 2017
  • Master Plan / Purposeful Path
• Integration of Scholarly Communications Design
  • Greenhouse Studios
  • Scholars’ Collaborative
  • Research Services
Assessment

• Roles
  • Did team roles change during the project?
  • How did librarian roles inform the process?

• Culture
  • Did librarians internalize the process?
  • Does participation disrupt the ‘handoff’ culture?

• Service
  • Does the design process change service offerings and at what level?
  • Are specialized scholarly communication design techniques generalizable?
Assessment

• Space
  • Did collaborative space and furniture assumptions change?

• Technology
  • Which technology became the most important for the team?
  • Can the Library scale its offerings for numerous multi-modal projects?

• Other questions?
  • What does success look like?
  • Does this experience inform structural, organizational, development changes?
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Your turn...
• Roles
• Culture
• Service
• Space
• Technology
• Other questions?
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Follow our Progress

UConn Library
http://lib.uconn.edu

Greenhouse Studios
http://greenhousestudios.uconn.edu