



# Learning Commons: What's Working?

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# Why assess?

- Need to describe the value of the 21<sup>st</sup> century library
- Demonstrate the importance of the commons to institutional goals and programs
- Provide a framework for understanding the interrelationship between the commons facility, the institutional teaching and learning program, and services



# Assessment of Learning Commons

“I am studying the relationship between renovations, or "service transitions" and assessment. Believe it or not, there isn't a lot of published material about learning commons assessment out there, which is partly why I'm doing this paper. I want to compare how libraries assess success and what measures are used for assessment and how Learning Commons standards may need to be defined for a community such as this.”

Posted by Erin McCoy on INFOCOMMONS-L, 10/23/08



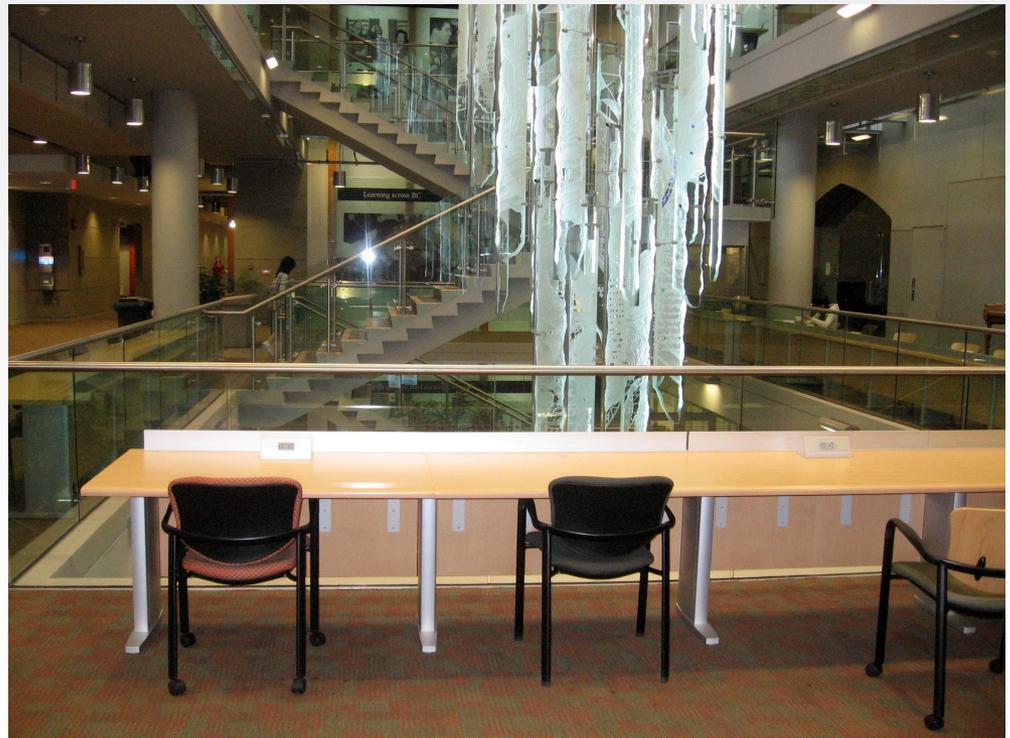
# How do we conceptualize success for learning commons?

Reinvigorating the library

Enhancing learning

Promoting culture and community

Other





# Reinvigorating the library

Counts

Satisfaction measures

Campus tour stop





# Leveraging assessment of use and satisfaction

- Demonstrating trends and demand in response to “why do we need a library?” questions
- Conveying positive atmosphere especially on campuses trying to promote a change in social climate
- Portraying the library as a cultural and academic center on campus and a point of campus pride



# Enhancing learning

Use of:

Group study rooms with amenities

Multi-media studios

Presentation practice rooms

Well-equipped classrooms





# Leveraging assessment of impact on learning

- Working with targeted initiatives on campus
  - Learning communities
  - Freshman year programs
  - Honors programs
  - Undergraduate research programs
- Working with partners
  - Value of partnerships with writing center, IT, and others
- Demonstrating value of facility, equipment, software, and services for specific programs and courses
- Correlating assessment with broader measures, e.g. NSSE, accreditation



# Promoting learning, community, & culture

Hosting student science posters in the library lobby

Displaying art in the lobby



Penn State U.



# Promoting community

Providing food and drink for students working long hours

Providing an informal meeting place for students and faculty

Providing a home for commuting students

Providing a getaway for grad students



Duke U. Library cafe



# Promoting culture

Showcasing art - murals, paintings, sculptures

Hosting events – readings, seminars, performances



Virginia Commonwealth U. Library



# Leveraging assessment of impact on community & culture

- Working with student services or special programs to demonstrate impact of learning commons on retention and/or satisfaction with campus life
- Demonstrating the cultural value of the commons to the campus



# Focusing on assessment can lead to a clearer conception of a service model

- What are you trying to achieve?
- What mechanisms are in place (physical and virtual space, equipment, software, and services) to support your goals?
- How will you know whether you are successful?
  - Quantitative measures
  - Qualitative measures



# Let's take a look at perspectives from two learning commons

- University of Colorado, Boulder
- University of Pennsylvania