FROM CLASSROOMS TO LEARNING SPACES

NEW AND REMODELED LIBRARY INSTRUCTION ROOMS

LOEX 2012 / Columbus, OH

Jason Vance & Kristen West
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LEARNING OUTCOMES

• Participants will assess trends in recent library classroom design in order to maximize the use of space in their own classrooms.
• Participants will analyze advice from librarians who have recently designed teaching spaces in order to apply best practices to their own library classroom design projects.

Vance & West (LOEX 2012)
SURVEY: SCOPE & METHODOLOGY

- Scope: Newly designed, recently renovated, or reconfigured academic library classrooms (2008 – 2011)
- Email to ILI-L listserv in November 2011
SURVEY: SCOPE & METHODOLOGY

• 12 interviews via email/telephone, including one site visit
• 11 usable interviews + ourselves (Total: 12)
• Literature review of library and higher education literature
SURVEY: DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

• Libraries by type
  • 6 public
  • 4 private
  • 2 community colleges

• Libraries by project type
  • 3 new construction
  • 9 renovation

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TRENDS IN LIBRARY CLASSROOM DESIGN

1. Room Configuration
2. Technology
3. Flexibility

Kent State University

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1. ROOM CONFIGURATION TRENDS
ROOM CONFIGURATION TRENDS

- Re-orienting the room

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THREE BASIC LAYOUTS

1. Lecture / demo
2. Perimeter
3. Clusters
L-113
USING ALL 30" x 30" DESK
ROOM CONFIGURATION TRENDS

• Re-orienting the room
• Projecting on multiple walls
MORE EXAMPLES OF RECONFIGURATION

• One example of stadium seating with monitors that rise from the desks
• Problem of movable desks with stationary technology
2. TECHNOLOGY TRENDS
TECHNOLOGY & EQUIPMENT TRENDS

• Laptops vs. desktops
  • 10 desktop classrooms--1 included “bring your own laptop” plug-in stations
  • 1 laptop classroom
  • 1 mix (large, split classroom)

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TECHNOLOGY & EQUIPMENT TRENDS

- Laptops vs. desktops
- Line of sight issues
Pacific University (CA)
TECHNOLOGY & EQUIPMENT TRENDS

- Laptops vs. desktops
- Line of sight issues
- Small machines
MORE TECHNOLOGY TRENDS

• Whiteboards
• SMART Boards
• Screen sharing software

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3. FLEXIBILITY TRENDS
FLEXIBILITY

• Open lab during non-teaching times
• Hosting non-teaching functions
• Ability to teach with different styles
ADVICE FROM LIBRARIANS
SOLICIT INPUT

- Research
- Consult librarians who teach
- Talk to students and users
WORK COLLABORATIVELY

- Architect
- Facilities and HVAC engineers
- Teaching librarians
- Administrators
- Decorators
- IT staff

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ADJUST EXPECTATIONS

• Work within the limitations of your building
• Prioritize important things in your budget
• Pad your timeline
OTHER ADVICE

• Be flexible
• Be creative
• Have a sense of humor
• Eavesdrop
• Work with digital schematics
• Be careful about ordering from catalogs / Test things out in person / Ask for samples
• Get furniture into the room a few days before technology

Vance & West (LOEX 2012)
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Ryan Sittler (California University of Pennsylvania)
Josh Vossler (Coastal Carolina University)
Amber Woodard (Cumberland University)
QUESTIONS?

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