Library Space:
Dimensions of the Imagination

Michael D. Miller
ALCTS Midwinter Symposium 2011
Stories

- Changes to technology
- Changes to collections
- Changes to space
- Changes to service
- Changes to staff
- Changes to perceptions
- Changes to mission
California Polytechnic State University

Member, California State University system

Located on the Central Coast

Master's institution

19,000 students, mostly undergraduate

Polytechnic curriculum - Engineering, Architecture, Science, Agriculture

“Learn by Doing”
Robert E. Kennedy Library

Opened 1980
220,000 sq. ft.
5 Floors

- no renovation over 30 years
- built for 12,000 students
- pre-digital construction
Building Status

• Program Plan resubmitted to State in 2008 for 120,000 sq. ft. expansion
  • Still unfunded and waiting
  • Completion 5 years?

• Main building renovation postponed
  • Program plan will wait for the addition
  • Completion 15 years?

What to do?
Changes to Collections

Paper to digital
- creates new possibilities

✓ Reduce duplication
  ✓ Own it once
  ✓ Favor online access
✓ Aggressive weeding
✓ Highlight the unique
The Plan

• Differentiate use by floor
  – 1st and 2nd floors: busy, noisy use; service points; group study; no stacks
  – 3rd floor: mixed use; half stacks, half group study
  – 4th and 5th floors: posted as quiet space; stacks, individual tables and carrels
The Plan (con.)

Invest in changes to 1st & 2nd floors
- Eliminate stacks on 2
- Create
  - 24 Hour Space
  - Café
  - Collaboration Spaces

Change furniture on upper floors to suit program

- Investment needs to pay off within 10-15 years
- Refurnish, don’t renovate
- Add power where possible
Changes to Space
Changes to Space
Types of Space

- 24 Hour Space
  - Active space
  - Quiet space
  - Computer lab
- Collaboration Spaces
- Social Spaces
- Public Spaces
- Labs & Classrooms
KENNEDY LIBRARY RENOVATION PLANS

NEW COMFY COUCHES!

8 NEWstudy rooms!

NEW Group Study Rooms
NEW Study Areas and Seating
NEW Julian's Coffee Bar
Learning Commons
Newspapers

TAKE A BREAK AT OUR NEW CAFE!

MORE STUdying SPACE!

COMING FALL 2008
Collaboration Rooms

- 16’ x 20’ modular room w/sliding door
- Movable tables & chairs
- Whiteboards
- Flat Panel Display
- Power in walls & floor
Collaboration Space

Project based learning needs project space.
Social Space

- Café area
- Mostly round tables
- Couches
- Art on walls
- Installed AV system
Social Space
Science Café
“Freshly Brewed Science”
Public Space

- Take advantage of natural light
- Comfortable seating
- Clusters of furniture
- Movable
- Exhibit space
Public Space

Being alone in public.
Exhibits

Typing in public

Friday May 14th
11am - 2pm
2nd floor
Kendall

Image courtesy of University Archives, Cal Poly SLO readinginpublic.com
Labs & Classrooms
Changes to Service

**Space for scholars – not just for collections**

- Supporting how scholars work now
- Academic event & exhibit space
- Active, dynamic environment responsive to user needs
Changes to People
Shifting skill requirements

• Collections:
  – Licensing
  – Negotiating
  – Rights management
  – Scanning operations

• Services:
  – Web developers
  – Usability testers
  – Marketing
  – Event coordination
  – Assessment
  – Media producers
Changes to Perception

**Science Café** – breaking college silos

Creating environments where students can be productive

**Exhibits** – discovery across disciplines

Provost says…

“The library is the living room of the University.”

Voted “Best Study Place” last 4 years

*Library considered a “Common Good”*
Common Good at Cal Poly

**Common Good** units are those that:

- Enrich the intellectual or cultural life of Cal Poly and the entire region;
- Support the academic mission of the University and foster life-long learning;
- Enhance the University's value to the community by being open to everyone;
- Rely on financial support from the University, alumni and friends.

[http://lib.calpoly.edu/about/commongood.html](http://lib.calpoly.edu/about/commongood.html)
Changes to mission

Importance of community

Innovation in service

• Bringing colleges together
• Fostering interdisciplinary learning
• Reaching out to the local community
  • OLLI at Cal Poly
• Managing space for the campus
Strategic Themes

Advancing Scholarship
  – Enhancing Discovery
  – Supporting Knowledge Creation & Sharing

Innovation
  – Collaboration
  – Experimentation

Connecting Communities
  – Across Disciplines & Professions
  – Cal Poly & Beyond

Citizenship
  – Inclusive Excellence
  – Sustainability
One Story

- Changes to technology
- Changes to collections
- Changes to space
- Changes to service
- Changes to people
- Changes to perceptions
- Changes to mission
Questions?

Coffee banned from library premises

You kids need to calm down. Also, no more pizza.

> Read about the now Coffee Law