Libraries at the Intersection of Invention, Inspiration, and Innovation

Barbara I. Dewey
Dean of University Libraries and Scholarly Communications
Unflattening by Nick Sousanis
Inspiring Spaces
Special Collections Library Exhibition Room
Paterno Reading Room
“The love of learning, the sequestered nooks, and all the sweet serenity of books.”

-Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
Franklin Atrium
Inventive Spaces
Sidewater Commons
Knowledge Commons
Knowledge Commons
Maker Commons Opening
Maker Commons
3D Printing in the Maker Commons
3D Printing in the Maker Commons
One Button Studio

“...art should not be comforting; for comfort, we have mass entertainment and one another. Art should provoke, disturb, arouse our emotions, expand our sympathies in directions we may not anticipate and may not even wish.”

— Josie Carol Oates
ALLEN J. and JUDITH R. WELTMANN LOBBY
Adaptive Technology
Future Spaces
37 LIBRARIES ACROSS 24 COMMONWEALTH CAMPUSES
John M. Lilley Library, Behrend College
Nesbitt Library, Penn State Wilkes-Barre
Adaptive Technology
Future of the Libraries
Future of the Libraries
Future of the Libraries
Future of the Libraries
Future of the Libraries
Library Users and Spaces
Study Space Research

• Methods
• Focus Groups
• Observation
• Interviews with Knowledge Commons Personnel
• Conversations with Students
• Flip Charts
• UX Café
• Examination of Existing Library Space Study Data
UX Cafe
Workspace Focus

• “Spread out, it looks like a disaster zone” – Undergraduate student, describing what her workspace typically looks like

• “If it’s a homework, I’d be working through the homework, I’d be working on the homework, I’d be searching things if I’m stuck, and I’d have a calculator, and a book open” – Undergraduate student, describing what her workspace typically looks like
Soft Seating ‘Living Room’ Focus

• “The desks that they have there are not convenient to have your computer on” – Undergraduate student, describing furnishings in the Knowledge Commons “living room” areas

• “I need a table to get stuff done. If I don’t have a table, I can’t do anything” – Undergraduate student

• “I’d rather have more just productive space than soft space” – Undergraduate student
### Study Space Surveys

**What works for you in this space and what doesn’t?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Works well 😊</th>
<th>doesn’t work 😞</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It's very comfortable here and I like the chairs!</td>
<td>Sometimes it's too noisy here!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lots of outlets</td>
<td>No desks without computers. Would like to have one space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I like the comfortable chairs :)</td>
<td>I believe that the TV isn't a good addition. It detracts from the students trying to work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td># tables aren't big enough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>tables aren't tall enough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The fake plants — seriously, can you afford real ones?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Study Spaces

“I have always been crazy about the reading room. As you know it’s a replica of Westminster Hall in London, on a somewhat smaller scale... I was thrilled when I was given a carrel. Honor students were allowed to have carrels in the stacks. I loved it because it made me feel like a scholar.”

- Mount Holyoke Alumna¹

“Libraries will no longer be geared primarily to direct readers but instead to content contributors, community curators, text-mining programs, machine learning algorithms, and visualization tools.”

Ad Hoc Task Force on the Future of the Libraries, led by Chris Bourg, MIT
All In at Penn State
All In at Penn State
Where are all the Librarians of Color?
Human Library

Photo credit: Toronto Public Library
Diversity and Technology
Spaces for Inclusion & Diversity

• Relabel restrooms as gender inclusive
• Replace all stationary tables in library classrooms with adjustable-height tables so that students of all abilities can use any workstation
• To reflect the diversity of our student body and campus community, place artwork from a variety of cultures in prominent visible locations
• Replace large service desks at the library entrances with smaller, more welcoming tables
Spaces for Inclusion & Diversity
Common Space Features

• Library spaces that incorporate classical architecture features – suggesting modes of thought that fit with the Western tradition of learning...

• Space that contain representations (statues, portraits, plaques) of wealthy, usually white, often, patrons.

• Spaces that are named after those benefactors, suggesting that the kind of wealth and status that would allow one to earn or own a space is to recognized, valued, and striven for...

EMPOWER STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO TAKE OWNERSHIP OF ACADEMIC LIBRARIES AND USE THEM AS SITES TO SOCIAL JUSTICE BY:

- Inviting students and faculty to suggest (or create) art, decorations, flyers, or names of rooms that affirm their cultural identities
- Choosing architectural and spatial styles that reference spatial traditions beyond the common European architectural tradition

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research.cehd.umn.edu/otn
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Penn State University Press
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**Ernest Hemingway**

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James M. Hutchison

“A perception exists that everything we need to know about the author of *A Farewell to Arms* and *A Moveable Feast* (among so many other great works) has been said ad infinitum. James M. Hutchison’s *Ernest Hemingway: A New Life* proves how untrue that thought is. Nearly thirty years after a redoubtable wave of biographies reimagined the man, Hutchison arrives to reset the scales once more, giving us a fuller, more nuanced portrait than we’ve ever enjoyed. Every generation deserves its own Hemingway, and this is ours.”

—Kirk Curnutt, board member of the Ernest Hemingway Foundation and Society and author of *Reading Hemingway’s “To Have and Have Not”: Glasses and Commentary*

**Nothing but Love in God’s Water**

*Learning from the First Americans* outdoor praise with a 2010 Indigenous Peoples Day celebration on the U.S. Capitol grounds.

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The Interinstitutional Center for Indigenous Knowledge was established as a consortium at The Pennsylvania State University in 1963 to promote communication among university faculty, staff, students, and nonpeople who share an interest in the diverse local knowledge systems that enable communities to survive in a changing world.
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Dancing in the Rain