Changing spaces: transforming Dunn Library into Simpson’s academic hub

We are in year five of intentional, incremental changes to build academic community. To encourage collaboration & innovation, we provide services to meet the changing learning & teaching needs of students and faculty and shared spaces outside of classrooms & labs with technology tools that encourage discovery.

2008-09: We surveyed the Simpson community using LibQUAL+ to assess and improve library services. From those responses, specific improvements began. In 2009-10 two glass study rooms were built, and electrical outlets were added along with café height tables and chairs plus beverage and snack machines. In 2009-10 two additional group study rooms were added along with reducing the reference collection and painting many public spaces.

2010-11: A library program review resulted in the ‘Dunn Library: visioning our future’ report with 16 recommendations; eight of these centered around space. The report also applauded the new Simpson Engaged Citizenship curriculum, with its Embedded Skills including Information Literacy. In 2011-12 we brought in a great space consultant team developed by FEH. After collection of many data elements and focus group responses, we were presented with a vision study which included a building assessment, programming plan and concept design.

2012-13: Teacher Education Labs were developed from two second floor classroom spaces and the adjacent curriculum lab remodeled and textbook collection weeded. It is a hands-on learning space with resources and methods classrooms together-- available for group study outside of class times. On the first floor, students can practice with classroom technologies in the new TechStudy (with SmartBoard, multimedia projector, document camera, etc.) or practice & film presentations or view videos, DVDs and streaming video in the new Presentation & Media Study. In these spaces, we advertised other equipment for check-out: laptops (for in-library use), student response system, camcorder/tripod, flip cameras, and headphones. Portable whiteboards are available along with more study space with a reduction in our print journals.
2013-14: We are developing three new areas on the first floor: Research Assistance Center (former Media Services office), Writing Center and EMERGE, the college business incubator. Videotapes were withdrawn, journals re-shelved, circulation counter shortened, reference desk unit remodeled and repurposed, shelving shifted and space is awaiting glass walls.

2014-15: We will start reducing our monograph collection (thanks to the CI-CCI collaborative) to develop additional quiet study space. A remodeled college archives will be possible due to a gift towards historical preservation.

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