

INNOVATIVE SPACES IN ARL LIBRARIES:  
RESULTS OF A 2008 STUDY

**SUBTOPIC: FACULTY / GRADUATE STUDENT SPACES**

The Innovative Spaces survey produced 98 instances of special or noteworthy projects being supported in ARL libraries. A comprehensive PDF file of these projects can be found at <http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/innovative-spaces-2009.pdf>, arranged alphabetically by institution.

In order to assist readers with focused interests, 17 “subtopics” have been assigned that group only those survey responses that relate in whole or in part to that topic. This report contains survey responses that touch on the subtopic that is identified above.

For readers who would extract information not covered by the subtopics, key word searching can be applied to the comprehensive list.

**Subtopics:**

Branch & Subject Libraries  
Café / Refreshment  
Classrooms, Workshops, Instruction  
Collaboration  
Digital Centers  
Faculty Development  
Faculty / Graduate Student Spaces  
Flexible, Malleable Spaces  
Galleries, Art, Exhibits, Performances, Events  
Literacy Instruction  
Multimedia  
Presentation Practice  
Technology Support  
Tutoring & Peer Support  
User-centered Programming of Spaces  
Videoconferencing  
Writing Support

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<http://www.arl.org/rtl/space/2008study/>

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, LIBRARY

### **Library provides customized environment for Institute for Research on Labor and Employment students and faculty.**

The new Library Commons is visually stunning, extremely well designed for flexible use, and has become a focal point for community building among scholars who affiliate with IRLE. Elements of the design include:

- Comfortable lounge seating with area lamps
- Conference/study table with room for 12 persons (more tables may be added)
- Ubiquitous wireless access
- An Information Gateway with five public access workstations, two of which are fully available to the general public. These systems may be used for both library research and for "task" computing, such as word processing.
- A semi-private alcove for visiting scholars, with workstations, laptop space and locking private storage
- New, private staff offices and reference counter workspaces
- Digital projection and screen installed and ready for laptop access
- Relocation of approximately 50 percent of the print collection to nearby sites, including a connected room on the first floor, and secure storage in on the basement level.

<http://www.irle.berkeley.edu/library/index.php?page=7>

#### **Indicators of success:**

- Significant, positive impact on IRLE's organizational culture and also on how information is used
- Fostered community-building among IRLE programs by providing a venue for faculty events and activities
- Enormously popular with students, faculty, researchers, and visitors for various purposes

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## UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY

### **Remodeled classroom improves flexibility; doubles as student collaboration space.**

Room 207 in Joseph Regenstein Library (JRL 207) was a glass-walled room seating 15-20. The room could be reserved by faculty for seminars, and was otherwise available on a first-come first-serve basis for group study. After surveying the Library's Outreach and Instruction Committee, and all faculty who had recently taught in JRL 207, the Library decided to remodel the space into a technology-equipped classroom. A ceiling-mounted projector, speakers, and a retractable screen, wall whiteboard, and privacy shades were installed. An audiovisual station in the south closet contains a multi-region DVD player and audio/video inputs for a laptop. New tables and chairs provide more flexible

arrangements. To increase room capacity (a request of some faculty), the Library added soft seating in the east alcove behind the door for another 3-4 students. The room is intended primarily for faculty teaching, with a secondary purpose providing space for collaborative student work involving multimedia (e.g., watching assigned film clips).

**Indicators of success:**

- Faculty bookings of space for teaching
  - Evidence of informal use by students on evenings/weekends
  - Positive user feedback
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## COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

**Digital humanities center provides consolidated service with specialists for scholar support.**

In the Fall 2009 the Libraries plan to open a Digital Humanities Center in the Butler Library, the University's main Humanities and History Library. This Center will be a counterpart to the Social Science Center and to a comparable space to open in the new Science Library in 2010.

Functions to be included are:

- identification of relevant information resources in all formats
- fullest effective use of such resources (which often have powerful advanced search and manipulation features) and the extraction of data from them
- creation of new digital content in all formats (both through the transformation of pre-existing print and analog material or the production of original material)
- editing and markup of digital content
- close study, annotation, and analysis of digital material
- incorporation of digital resources into writing or other scholarly production
- assembly and management of digital material in personal collections
- collaboration with colleagues in a variety of research and instructional activities · communication of digital scholarly content and research results, both to fellow researchers and to students
- storage of digital content
- formal training on the aforementioned resources, tools, and techniques, both in a classroom setting and in self-paced tutorials.

**Indicators of success:**

- steady and growing use
  - users asking for more capabilities and support
  - users recommending center to others
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## FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

### **Faculty and graduate research center services informed by user population.**

The Scholars Commons is a renovation of the ground floor of Strozier Library providing a collaborative teaching, learning and research space for FSU faculty and students. It opened in Fall 2008. The target audience is FSU faculty and graduate students, and available for undergraduates seeking primary sources and quiet research space. The Center is primarily a lab for faculty in the humanities, facilitating interaction with primary source materials and for the libraries to engage all users in the value of primary sources. The Center includes research consultation spaces, a reading room, a classroom, conference rooms, presentation practice rooms, a large presentation space, multimedia equipment and support, and primary source collections. Our most significant innovation in this space is that after making many decisions for collections, services and staffing based on what we thought users would want...we took the time to visit every academic department on campus to gather qualitative data on the collections and services they wanted in the spaces. As our insight and understanding increases over time, accommodations will be made to service programming.

#### **Indicators of success:**

- Results of ongoing assessment so the space is in a continuous improvement cycle
- Positive feedback from faculty graduate students that this space is meeting their needs
- Usage statistics

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## GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

### **Multimedia room and production studio supply state-of-the-art facilities for digital media.**

a) The Picchi Multimedia Room has gone through several modifications and improvements since it was first created in 1997. In the last couple of years, all of the computers were upgraded to iMacs, a batch slide scanner and \$3000 test scanner, numerous flatbed image scanners, and the most up-to-date software packages for media development (CS3 suite and Final Cut Studio) were added. Last year we decided to keep this space open to all Georgetown users 24 hours a day. It is also where we teach workshops and provide one-on-one consultation. In '06-'07 we taught 118 classes to 936 students in this space.

b) Editing Suites and Production Studio Editing suited with Mac desktop computers are available for advanced audio and video editing in a private, state-of-the-art environment.

The following resources are available: video editing with iMovie and Final Cut, Pro HD, DVD authoring with iDVD and DVD Studio Pro, and audio editing with

GarageBand and Soundtrack Pro. The production studio can be used as studio space for video production or as a digital audio recording studio featuring industry-standard Digidesign Pro Tools software. Other amenities include a Yamaha keyboard and a Mackie control surface for hands-on operation of Pro Tools. All of these rooms are open to students, faculty and staff 24 hours a day.

**Indicators of success:**

- positive user feedback
- increase in workshop and usage statistics
- increase in projects completed in the space

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## JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

**Center targets innovative teaching support for faculty and graduate students.**

The Center for Educational Resources within the Sheridan Libraries is an instructional support center for faculty and graduate students (with many undergraduate student employees working as student staff). The Center includes meeting space, big screen collaboration capabilities and multimedia development space. The mission of the Center for Educational Resources is to partner with faculty and graduate students to extend their instructional impact by connecting innovative teaching strategies and instructional technologies.

The Center's mission aligns with the evolving role of university libraries as they advance from print-based repositories to electronic collaboratories that enable application of digital collections and networked services to new approaches in instructional and scholarly communication. Facilities are described in some detail on the Center website. [www.cer.jhu.edu](http://www.cer.jhu.edu)

**Indicators of success:**

- positive feedback from faculty and grad student "patrons"
- increasing demand for access to our resources

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## MCGILL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

**Comprehensive renovation triples library attendance.**

With refurbishment of the Macdonald Campus Library, a tired, old-fashioned library was upgraded. The entrance was altered. A new combined lending and information service point was opened. The entry door is combined with a display panel. Attractive colours and new furniture were acquired. An e-zone for a training room was installed, with glass walls and doors so that people could see right through the library. New lighting was acquired, including task and ambient lighting. Sustainable approaches were taken to carpet selection and

other fittings. An advisory committee involved students as well as faculty. Spaces were differentiated with quiet individual study, specialist lockable desks for graduate students, group study, and tables so that students could spread themselves and their work. It has been extremely successful with use trebling since its re-opening. <http://www.mcgill.ca/macdonald-library/>  
<http://www.mcgill.ca/files/library-about/LibraryInFocus.pdf>

**Indicators of success:**

- Use has trebled
- Positive user feedback from students
- Viewed by the Dean and faculty as a major success providing a significant and competitive marketing edge to the Faculty in attracting students at undergraduate and graduate levels.

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## OHIO UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

**Faculty commons collaboration offers classroom skills support, meeting space, connection to library services, and convening ground.**

Ohio University's Faculty Commons opened in September 2007. Located on the 3rd floor of Alden Library, this 9,000 square-foot facility provides support for teaching, scholarship and engagement. It places three key offices for faculty development – the Center for Academic Technology (CAT), the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE), and the Center for Writing Excellence (CWE) – in a highly visible and convenient location. In addition to providing a home for CAT, CTE, and CWE, the Commons houses the Campus-Community Engagement Office, the Libraries' Media Production Department, and the Libraries' Collection Development Office.

These offices, along with three 'smart' conference rooms for faculty use, surround a large, open, lobby-like space that contains workstations, desks and tables, and soft seating. Mac and PC stations equipped for video and audio editing are available, as is a 'sandbox' for faculty to try out the latest in academic technology. In focus groups, faculty asked for a quiet place to read and study in Alden Library, and the Commons also provides an ideal space for these activities. The Commons has a small kitchen, and can be reserved for social events – coffees, luncheons and the like – by faculty groups. Display areas, both high-tech and traditional, showcase faculty research and teaching projects.

The one-stop shopping concept of the Faculty Commons is patterned after Alden Library's highly successful student-focused Learning Commons. The purpose of CAT, CTE, and CWE is to enhance the classroom skills of teachers (including faculty and graduate students), while the Media Production Department provides a variety of graphic art and multi-media creation services to support faculty research as well as teaching. The Campus-Community Engagement Office supports engagement in partnerships with the communities

surrounding our six campuses through education, services, research, training, and technical assistance. Use of all of these services is expected to increase sharply now that they are housed in this high-quality work-and-study space dedicated to faculty use. <http://www.library.ohiou.edu/fc/>

**Indicators of success:**

- Increased demand for media services
- Collaboration between units in the Faculty Commons has improved.
- Collaboration between the Library and the FC units has improved. For example, the new version of Blackboard has a greatly expanded presence for the Library.

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## UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE KNOXVILLE LIBRARIES

### **Dynamic spaces complemented by quiet areas for focused, contemplative work.**

We are in the process of designing a more traditional quiet/reading room space to balance the Commons space. This area will be on the floor below the Commons and is where our Reference room is currently located. It will be a bit more traditional so I hesitate to call it innovative, but these days quiet spaces in big Main libraries are becoming innovative. We plan to create a more scholarly atmosphere (and actually that already exists in that area) where group work will NOT be encouraged. It will be targeted toward individuals who want to study or work alone in quiet, and toward upper division undergraduates and graduate students, and faculty if they want to use it. Besides a change in the type of furnishing used in the area, the big change will be to close the service desks (reference and periodicals) to make it a quieter reading room area and to centralize those services in the Commons. We will have consultation services only in an enclosed area on this floor. We are proposing is to keep the area open until 3 am, if we can get the funding to do so, thereby providing a quiet space in contrast to the Commons that is open past midnight. There will be 50-60 desktop workstations in this area and wireless access for laptops. Furniture will be mostly fixed and geared toward individual study. We want to have a PR campaign to highlight this quiet space and try to educate our students about the differences in quiet and group space. We plan to integrate this into orientation to try to create a new culture where students are more understanding of respect for fellow students who are studying in a quiet space.

**Indicators of success:**

NA



## UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN LIBRARIES

### **Fine Arts Library Reading Room outfitted with state-of-the-art AV/multimedia production technologies; collaboration with College of Fine Arts.**

The Fine Arts Library Reading Room is a newly renovated space, collaboratively funded by the University of Texas Libraries and the UT College of Fine Arts (CoFA). The target audiences are undergraduate and graduate students from the College, but the space is available to all UT Austin students, faculty and staff. The space is also staffed collaboratively with the CoFA supplying technical support to end users (help with software packages) and the Libraries supplying content expertise and hardware/network infrastructure support. The space includes 20+ media workstations enabling students to access and manipulate various media formats in a collaborative environment. The space includes: - Wireless Access is available throughout the library. - Color printing. - Windows PCs and Macs with DVD/CD-RW drives, Office XP Suite, Adobe Creative Suite, iTunes, iMovie. - Audio editing workstations with Audacity software, DAT, cassette and M-Audio input interface. - MIDI stations with Sibelius and Finale software. - Video editing workstations with DVD +/- R, RW drives with Final Cut Express and iDVD. Hardware includes S-VHS deck and Mini DV deck. - Scanning stations with PhotoScore scanning program. Hardware includes flatbed and slide scanners; slide scanning and negative strip and large format negative scanning is also available. - Listening and viewing stations with DVD/VHS, S-VHS and Worldwide player functionality. LaserDisc and U-Matic players are also available. - Listening/dubbing station with turntable, dual cassette, and CD player. Other available equipment: - Headphones - Digital Cameras - Laptops - MIDI Keyboards - Slide scanner attachments - Portable CD players In addition, the space was designed flexibly, and we often use it for donor receptions and other outreach activities associated with the College of Fine Arts. We also added electrical outlets everywhere we could.

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/fal/index.html>

#### **Indicators of success:**

- Increased usage
- Positive feedback from students and faculty
- Renovation was catalyst for naming opportunity for the renovated space

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## UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA LIBRARY

### **Small-group study/teaching rooms with multipurpose capacities.**

In 2007, School of Medicine and the Library collaborated on building 12 small group study/teaching spaces. Funding was provided by the School of Medicine, space was provided by the Library. The rooms hold 10-17 people, each contain projector, instructor computer, whiteboard, and light box (for medical images), and moveable furniture. Rooms are used primarily for small group instruction



for first- and second-year medical students Principles of Medicine courses, but are also frequently reserved by other constituencies of the Library for educational purposes. Rooms are also available on a first-come, first-served and short-term reservation basis for student study. The Library's entire book collection was relocated to carve out the space for these rooms.

<http://www.healthsystem.virginia.edu/internet/library/wdc-lib/admin/policy/group-study.cfm>

**Indicators of success:**

- increased usage
  - requests for changes or enhancements
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## UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA LIBRARY

### **Health sciences library extends collaboration to informatics team. (Health Sciences Library)**

The Library plans to incorporate space for members of the SOM Clinical Informatics department to provide more seamless access to informatics support. The proposed unit will be called the Bioconnector and is part of the University's CTSA proposal to NIH. The Bioconnector will also be a virtual door to bioinformatics and clinical informatics support. It will capitalize on the HSL's existing service and educational infrastructure to provide additional access to clinical technology support. The anticipated audience will be faculty (research and clinical), graduate students, medical students and interested staff.

**Indicators of success:**

- Requests for changes or enhancements
  - Increased educational opportunities for clinical informatics support
  - Positive user feedback.
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## UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA LIBRARY

### **Collaborative venture with computing group boosts support for science and engineering research. (Science & Engineering Library)**

The Research Computing Lab is a collaborative partnership between ITC's Research Computing Support Group and the Brown Science and Engineering Library. The purpose of this partnership is to provide a convenient space for faculty and students to work on innovative projects with specialists and get support for instruction and research in the science and engineering disciplines. The space is equipped with high-end machines and designed to be conducive to group work. We offer consultation services in a wide variety of technologies and methodologies for high performance and research computing. We provide

support services in person, via phone, and through our web help ticket system. Our business hours cater to the researcher, professional, instructor, and student. Special activities include a speaker series: the High Performance Computing Bootcamp

(<http://www2.lib.virginia.edu/brown/rescomp/events.html#/?p=780>), and short course instruction in Unix, Mathematica, and MatLab.

[http://hitchcock.itc.virginia.edu/dml\\_sc\\_reg/index.php?c=view\\_offered\\_courses](http://hitchcock.itc.virginia.edu/dml_sc_reg/index.php?c=view_offered_courses)

<http://www2.lib.virginia.edu/science/rescomp/index.html>

**Indicators of success:**

- Increased use of space
- Increased use by faculty of the services provided
- Positive User Feedback

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## UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA LIBRARY

**Scholars' lab caters to digital research and scholarly analysis needs of faculty and advanced students in social sciences and humanities. (Alderman / Clemons Library)**

Combines software applications for data analysis, geographic information systems, visual presentations, scanning and text encoding. Flexible workstations and space intended to facilitate individual or collaborative work. Target audience includes advanced undergraduates, graduate students, faculty and independent researchers. Staff provide expert assistance with all applications available on Scholars Lab workstations. Special events, speakers, and showcases enliven the center. <http://www.lib.virginia.edu/scholarslab/about/index.html>

**Indicators of success:**

- Successful centralization of IT and library services.
- Numbers of users for application rose significantly.
- Number of classes requested for software applications rose.

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## UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON LIBRARIES

Health Sciences Library

**Collaborative spaces for graduate and professional students emphasize multimedia and teaching support.**

The University of Washington Health Sciences Library (HSL) Learning Commons Services supports the educational missions of the Schools of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Public Health. By partnering with these schools (HSL's primary clientele) and the Student Technology Fee (STF)

Committee, HSL's Learning Commons provides collaborative learning spaces for graduate and professional students. Four computer classrooms, each configured in a different way, provide settings for faculty and librarians to teach with multimedia and networked resources. A drop-in computer lab offers access to software and support staff for students to build their own presentations utilizing networked software and equipment such as scanners, color laser printers, the Microsoft Office suite of programs and EndNote Web. An open reserves area offers ready access to physical materials placed on classroom reserve and the eRes system provides quick electronic access. Funding from these schools and the STF allowed physical renovations and upgrading of equipment. Student surveys conducted before application for support permit HSL to tailor purchases to meet student needs. Most recently, HSL received a University Libraries 21st Century Grant for Innovation, Service, and Program Enrichments to provide clickers in the classroom, thus enabling instructors to use student response systems for instantaneous interactions between instructors and students. Additionally, HSL relaxed its previous ban on all food and beverages to allow students to work in a more comfortable, welcoming atmosphere.

<http://healthlinks.washington.edu/hsl/commons>

**Indicators of success:**

- Usage
- Instructor feedback
- User feedback

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## WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS LIBRARIES

### **Arc Technology Center designed for multimedia support.**

This space was designed as a technology rich area where students and faculty work on projects requiring specialized software/hardware. It is geared for customers to explore library resources and apply innovative multimedia technologies in support of teaching, learning, and research. Completed in 2002 as part of a renovation of the entire library, the space also includes a "hands-on" classroom and a regular classroom. <http://library.wustl.edu/units/arc/>

**Indicators of success:**

NA

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## UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO LIBRARIES

### **Teaching Support Centre a campus collaboration with outreach at several libraries; supports faculty, staff, and student instruction and learning proficiencies.**

Four years ago Western Libraries (WL) entered into a close collaborative partnership with the teaching and learning centre for faculty and graduate student development (the former Educational Development Office). The partnership was tangibly realized in the creation of the Teaching Support Centre (TSC). Housed in space on the main floor adjacent to the reference hall in The D.B. Weldon Library, the Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Information & Media Studies Library and the main undergraduate library at The University of Western Ontario, the TSC contains office and consultation space for faculty and graduate student development staff and the Information Literacy Coordinator for Western Libraries. The TSC also offers instructional technology assistance as a satellite location for Western's Instructional Technology Resource Centre that provides technical expertise and mentoring for faculty wishing to incorporate instructional technology into a course. The TSC then, offers a single point of access for pedagogical proficiency, information literacy expertise and assistance with instructional technology for faculty in support of improving teaching and learning at Western. In addition the TSC has a library of teaching resource materials now integrated into the WL online catalogue, and two classroom teaching labs that mirror classroom facilities across campus and showcase instructional innovations such as Smart Board and Sympodium technology. The classrooms are used for faculty and grad student development programs and initiatives facilitated by the TSC as well as information literacy instruction conducted by WL teaching librarians. The TSC represents more than innovative physical space however. Information Literacy is a key strategic priority for WL and the partnership with the TSC has resulted the integration of Information Literacy and the role of librarians as collaborators in instruction into all of the programs and services, courses and workshops offered for Western teaching faculty and graduate teaching assistants as well as the inclusion of librarians as participants in these teaching and curriculum development initiatives. TSC website at: <http://www.uwo.ca/tsc/>

#### **Indicators of success:**

- higher profile for and increased interest in TSC programs and initiatives and in the unique partnership
- increase in programming for graduate students supporting Western's focus on improving graduate education

- anecdotal evidence, e.g. For many years in August, the TSC has offered Teaching at the University Level, a week-long program for instructors typically in their second teaching year who want to become better teachers. Formerly farmed out to classrooms and lecture theatres wherever space was available across campus, the course can now be offered in one place. TSC staff has noted a general building of community among course participants since there has been a consistent and recognizable home for the program. An informal follow-up session was requested by participants in the first offering in the TSC as a check-in at the end of the first term, and is now included as part of the program.
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## YALE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

### **Large-scale library renovation supports student learning and engagement aided by campus collaborators.**

The newly renovated Bass Library is a learning environment designed to foster dynamic interactions among Yale students, faculty and staff from across the campus. The space allows librarians, curators and others to engage in collaborative efforts in the support of faculty and students in use of technologies, collections and pedagogical techniques in the new Collaborative Learning Center. Individual and group study spaces also enable these interactions as well as two electronic classrooms, two university classrooms, open study spaces and the Thain Family Café. The Bass Library houses approximately 150,000 books across all disciplines and a circulation staff to help students find, use, and check out these materials. Librarians and curators from throughout the Library bring subject expertise to support library research education. Other units on campus with presence in the Library include Information Technology Services, the Center for Language Study, and the McDougal Graduate Teaching Center. ITS Student Techs are available to help their peers in troubleshooting computer problems and to provide general support for technology in the Bass Library. <http://www.library.yale.edu/bass/index.html>

#### **Indicators of success:**

- increased group study areas for meetings with and among faculty, students, staff
  - improved area for food / drink [a cafe]
  - functioning facilities [e.g. no leaks] and aesthetically attractive environments
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## YORK UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

### **Study spaces incrementally improved.**

We currently provide a variety of spaces for individual study and group discussion, ranging from quiet carrels to group study rooms. We have also set up, in response to student demand, a graduate student reading room and a silent study hall (the SSH!). We have also opened an in-library instruction room for student drop-in use of the computers (with student computer assistants). We have recently renovated some study areas, and have done this with the advice of student focus groups. We have, on their recommendation, included student art pieces as decorative elements.

### **Indicators of success:**

- strong usage of spaces
- positive comments by users
- a lower noise level in study areas