Redesigning a Library 2nd Floor Study Space in an Academic Health Sciences Library Using Patron Feedback

Kimberly Loper
*University of Miami Miller School of Medicine*, kloper@med.miami.edu

JoAnn Van Schaik
*University of Miami Miller School of Medicine*, Jvanschaik@med.miami.edu

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Background
This project is related to the LCME finding that the School did not have adequate small group teaching classrooms.

Obstacles
Space
Funding
Collections

Benefits
Renovation
Increase faculty presence in the Library
Convenient for librarians to attend PBL sessions
Additional study and collaboration space

Stacks and Journals
The second floor was comprised primarily of stacks. Stacks contained 11,795 linear feet of journals, most of which were also available electronically.

Plans were drawn to convert book shelving area into 8 private classrooms and an open study space. The classrooms will be available to Medical Education as needed and then used by students for additional study space when not in use.

Weeding Journals
Staff checked every item against NLM’s holdings and offered NLM what they did not have. NLM paid for shipment of 25 boxes of journals.

Two carts of journals were relocated to the History of Medicine Room as part of the Library's Florida Collection journals.

The Library kept 63 shelves of journals due to the University’s retention requirements. Retained journals were temporarily relocated to the 3rd floor.

Weeding Journals Continued
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Assessment Activities
Library Administration initiated feedback using whiteboards, pictures, and schematics of plans & furniture options; legal pads were available to patrons for suggestions and comments.

Assessment Activities Continued
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Conclusions
Completed during Fall 2018, the new open study space increased the 2nd floor seating capacity from 83 to 161. Seating includes sofas, privacy pods, various-sized and multi-height standing desks, and café style booth seating.

Challenges
There were two significant challenges to the redesign—funding and communication. Quotes were 1.5 times higher than initial project estimates and resulted in the relocation of the small group classrooms to existing IT training space in the Library’s basement.

The project was split into two areas of focus: small group classrooms and open study space. Lack of assigned responsibilities and miscommunication among the teams led to duplication of effort on more than one occasion.

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Floor Redesign
The open study area was redesigned to offer several seating options: Twelve height-adjustable tables, 4 privacy pods with data and power sources, comfortable couches, tables to accommodate four or six people, and café style booth seating.

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Complete Redesign Conclusions
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It is hoped that the new space will be a comfortable and welcoming environment and will accommodate patrons with different study preferences.