



# Thinking Outside the Box

## Specialized Educational Technologies



Library Innovations:  
Effective Designs to Encourage  
Collaboration



# Minnesota State University, Mankato. Memorial Library





# Library Innovations: Effective Designs to Encourage Collaboration

**Innovation** in this Library Computing Environment focused on creating Casual Collaborative Computer "pods." Design goals included maximizing computer numbers in minimum floor space with numerous structural pillars, while **encouraging collaborative work, comfort, & individual work space.**

Before: Notice the number of patrons





After: Notice the number of patrons.



# Library Innovations: Effective Designs to Encourage Collaboration

The challenge was to be **creative** in developing a new **collaborative computerized learning environment** within this single space.

Solutions included:

- Pod tables for 8 computers, wrapped around the building's support pillars: 104 total workstations.





# Library Innovations: Effective Designs to Encourage Collaboration

Solutions included:

- Café-height tables with seating for 3-4 students.
- Soft sofa seating for groups of 2-6 students, with power in end-tables for laptops.
- A coffee shop adds to the techno-café feel.





# Library Innovations: Effective Designs to Encourage Collaboration

The work in progress, notice:

- Student labor force cut much cost
- Cable Management reduces clutter
- Open floor plan allows for large numbers of students studying





INFORMATION

Library Commons







A photograph showing a server rack installed under a desk. The rack is white with a dark base. A power strip is mounted on top of the rack, with several black power cables plugged into it. A bundle of yellow and white Ethernet cables is plugged into the front of the rack. The cables are bundled together and run along the side of the rack. The text "Wire Management" is overlaid in blue on the front of the rack. The desk is supported by black metal legs. In the background, there is a carpeted floor and some office furniture, including a red armchair.

Wire Management







# Plenty of Elbow Space.



# Library Innovations: Effective Designs to Encourage Collaboration

These are collaborative efforts between the **Library & Information Technology Services** for funding & implementation. Many libraries will have similar building constraints, needs for space efficient “PODS” & needs for more technology. We believe this is a “**Best Practices**” example.













FORMATION

BURLINGTON BAY

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH LA

FORMATION



Casual Collaborative Computer Lab. Seating for up to 70. Encourages group work.













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# Global Learning Lab – Modern Languages

