### Thinking Outside the Box

### Specialized Educational Technologies

Library Innovations:
Effective Designs to Encourage
Collaboration

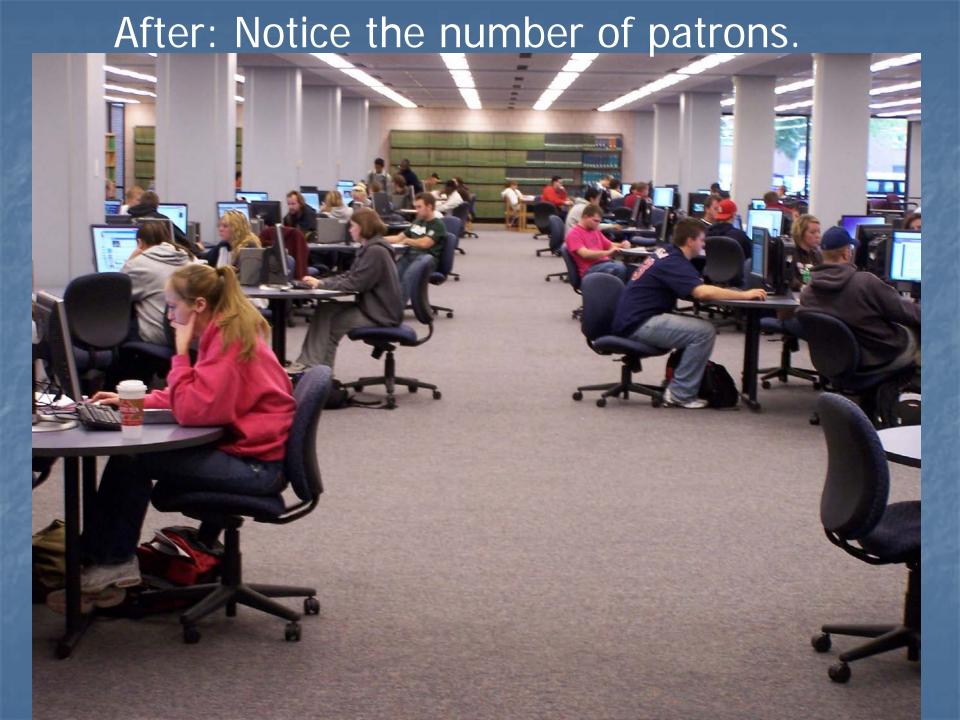
### Minnesota State University, Mankato. Memorial Library



**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





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.



#### 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.



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









Plenty of Elbow Space.



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.







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







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### Global Learning Lab – Modern Languages

