Thinking Outside the Box

Specialized Educational Technologies

Library Innovations: Effective Designs to Encourage Collaboration

Educause 2006, Dr. Joan Roca, Wayne Sharp, David Esping
Minnesota State University, Mankato

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

ATTENTION

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

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

EXIT

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.

Global Learning Lab – Modern Languages