Learning Commons: Exploration and Application

October 1, 2009
A set of best practices for improving reference space and service by integrating technology with student-centered learning

(Held, 2009, p. 190)
“How do we adapt an institution that has grown up around the print tradition to manage service delivery in a highly complex and fluid digital environment?”

-Donald Beagle, 1999
Strategic Fit @ UNCC

Illustration by Ron Lewis

Solid line = more direct or more formal relationship; dashed line = more indirect or more informal relationship.

(Bailey & Tierney, 2002, p. 278)
Functional Integration @ UNCC

Illustration by Ron Lewis

Solid line = more direct or more formal relationship; dashed line = more indirect or more informal relationship.

(Bailey & Tierney, 2002, p. 280)
Implementation

- Planning process
- Graduated vs. simultaneous
- Staff training

(Bailey & Tierney, 2008)
J. Edgar and Louise S. Monroe Library

- One desk model
- Collaboration
- Staffing
- Expansion
- Critics
- Embraced by students
Features of the LC

- Collaborative learning spaces
- Multimedia workstations
- Hi-tech classrooms
- Group study spaces
- Moveable furniture
- Student-centered learning
- Writing Center
- Faculty Development Center
- Learning Communities
- Student creativity
Staffing and Funding

- Professional librarians
- Technology staff
- Students
- Tiered reference

- Where does the $$ come from?
- Who’s responsible for the LC?
Blurring the Line

- What is the librarian’s role in this “production oriented” environment?
- Where is the line between student learning and student recreation?
Study Area, pre-Rocktober
Study Area, post-Rocktober
Computers, pre-Rocktober
Computers, post-Rocktober
Assessment

- Qualitative and quantitative evaluation
- Needs assessment
- Usability studies and focus groups
- Explicit and implicit surveys

(Bailey & Tierney, 2008)
Challenges

- control
- untraditional responsibility
- training equipment
- professional-identity
- staffing balance
- assessment
- resources
The Ideal Commons

Star your favorites.
Questions?

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References and Further Reading


