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RUTGERS UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FACILITIES

JANUARY 2005

The Rutgers University Libraries strategic goal for facilities confirms the concept of library as place in the context of the 21st century. Libraries' roles are continuously evolving at the same time that key functions are maintained. The increasing use of technology is ubiquitous and space will be needed, not only for patrons, but also for staff who are working in new arenas including the creation of our RUL Repository and innumerable digital projects. As libraries increasingly become collaborators with academic departments in the creation of information we will need spaces to create and store this output. Students will continue to view libraries as a refuge. We therefore need to create environments which are conducive to study, learning, and work. Patrons will need spaces reflective of their differing study styles as well as often requested spaces such as cafés and computer laboratories. Libraries must continue to be responsive to the changes in teaching methodology in the academy. Professors are increasingly assigning group projects over individual ones. Therefore all our libraries need many more group studies. Librarian's roles as teachers will continue to increase. This will be especially true as new Middlestates criteria for information literacy are carried out. So it is imperative that libraries have well appointed information handling laboratories. Within the University, libraries are seen as cultural centers. As such the buildings should provide spaces for exhibits and lectures. In order to be welcoming environments, all libraries should be well maintained. While the libraries' collections are not growing exponentially due to shifting resources and the rise in the cost of publishing, space will still be needed to address serious deficiencies in the infrastructure for collection support. Among these are a lack of space to receive and evaluate gifts; rare book and archive storage; space to conduct preservation projects; and space to meet the shelving needs of many of our libraries which are already filled to capacity. As appropriate explore avenues of collaborative opportunities to accomplish these plans.

To accomplish this strategic goal, listed below are specific objectives to be accomplished. The first are generic and apply to all libraries and then are listed specific building proposals.

In the next five year all libraries should have their facilities upgraded with the following:

- Make the facilities a pleasant and conducive place to study and work. To accomplish this all facilities should have clean or freshly painted walls; carpets which are clean or replaced where needed; shabby or broken furniture to be updated or replaced; curtains which are cleaned or replaced; updated signage throughout; and updated lighting

installed where needed. HVAC systems need to be upgraded or replaced where needed to make the buildings comfortable.

- All our libraries need group study areas so that students can conduct collaborative work. All libraries should also have some group study rooms equipped with presentation equipment and software.
- Wireless capabilities installed throughout including TAS.
- The libraries serve as a cultural center for the university and as such all libraries should have attractive exhibit cases and bulletin boards.
- Facility security issues must be addressed. This includes the conducting of security audits, the installation or updating of security equipment including cameras, and the upgrading of the 3M security systems where needed.
- All major libraries should have video conferencing equipment.
- All major libraries should have undergraduate computer laboratories.
- With changing fire codes, funds must be secured to meet new standards as they appear.

1. The Rutgers University Libraries Preservation Center

In order to create the space needed in libraries throughout the University the most cost effective way is to put an addition to the annex of high density storage for little used books, rare materials and university archives. Our very special collections such as the Institute of Jazz Studies and Special Collections and University Archives can not accept large important collection due to lack of space. It is envisioned that the Preservation Center would also contain a receiving area to receive and inspect collections, a room for librarians to review materials, a processing room with supply storage, and a state-of-the-art conservation center with specialized equipment, storage and ventilation. There will be a computer room conforming to current standards for a main distribution facility(MDF) for the router, servers, UPS and mass storage devices that comprise the Rutgers repository as well as work areas for staff.

2. D21: The Douglass Library for the 21st Century. Finish Phase II and III.

The last two phases include the finishing of the Margery Foster Center which will house a digital archive center, the development of a Women's and Gender Resource Room, and the development of the Music Library into a performing library of the 21st century. The later will

house more space for collections, graduate carrels, two seminar rooms, a computer lab for the performing arts, an enhanced and enriched media department, and a rare book area. For undergraduate students there will be many group studies, a large information handling laboratory, and improved study space. In addition there will be public space to hold small events.

3. Dana Library. An Academic/Social Space for Learning at Rutgers-Newark

To respond to the new focus in the academy of libraries as technology-supported learning spaces and as places that facilitate collaborative and other aspects of social learning, the Newark Campus has recently (2007) completed a conceptual master plan for the Dana Library. The master plan considers the needs of the entire facility that will allow it to be a fully 21st century library. It calls for spaces where students can be with others, whether faculty or other students, in a learning/social/and cultural environment where a sense of community is fostered. It also calls for quiet spaces where students, whether graduate or undergraduate, can study and reflect on their work. The plan addresses the need for state-of-the-art instructional labs where students and others can gain experience in searching for, evaluating, and using information in all formats, and the need for a reconfigured reference area where librarian and technical expertise are readily available.

There is new space in the Dana plan for the archives of the world-renowned Institute of Jazz Studies, which continues to expand. There is a jazz café, located in what can be a 24-hour space that responds to the need for the social, as well as building on the jazz theme associated with the Institute of Jazz Studies. The jazz café is envisioned as being a focal center of the reconfigured first floor South Wing commons area. There is a seminar room for faculty to hold classes where interaction is important, and a 150-seat auditorium for the holding of performances, concerts, lectures, films, and other programs. The Dana Digital Media Lab will be expanded so that work can continue in an upgraded space for creating digital audio, visual, and other files, and for an upgraded Dana Room, which services as another kind of technologically-enabling instructional and social space that has proven to be popular. There are other spaces that address research and other longstanding operational needs. All in all, the plan seeks to address many facets of the new learning culture and the new role of the library in fostering learning.

4. Robeson Library Renovations.

The Robeson Library critically needs several upgrades to the facilities to meet the academic needs of students and faculty. Most prominent is the addition of at least 10 group study rooms for 4-8 students and upgrading of the furniture which is dated and in disrepair. Another need is the addition of compact shelving in the basement. The collection is an excellent undergraduate collection which is heavily used by students throughout the system. The collection is so tight in certain ranges that there is a one book in one book out dictum. In the future windows need to be replaced or upgraded in the 1970 addition.

5. Science Library

The Libraries have a major initiative to combine all the Bush Campus science libraries into one facility. The vision of the new science library is one of transformation, collaboration and engagement. Since the construction of the Library of Science and Medicine in 1969 there has been a transformation in the science academy. As scientific research is now predominately interdisciplinary in its approach, the libraries must act as a catalyst in stimulating inquiry by having interdisciplinary materials side-by-side. We propose this by consolidating the four branch libraries along with the Library of Science and Medicine into one facility which will meet the research needs of faculty in the 21st century. Here a professor who researches in the area of biostatistics will only have to go to one location instead of two. Here students having been assigned collaborative work will find spaces conducive to their learning. Here will be a place which will stimulate interest and excitement about the successes of the Rutgers science community. Here will be a library with a science bookstore, café, group study rooms, information handling labs, and seminar rooms. There will also be places in public spaces to highlight the scientific research of our wonderful faculty and students. Our first step will be to create a comprehensive concept document.