



# UNIVERSITY RESEARCH LIBRARIES

Influences, Trends + Best Practices  
2017.07.20

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## Observations + Influences

Before talking about trends and practices, it is important to step back and observe some of the influences bearing on universities today:

Institutional Factors: Attention to campus utilization and tuition value can mean the library is asked to expand the services it typically offered in the past, in conjunction with University values (i.e. support for research, writing, EAL, technology, and academic skills).

Engaging Students: With new research on brain science, active and differentiated learning and pedagogy, more institutions are making the shift to becoming “learner-centered” rather than “storage centered.”

## Observations + Influences

Evolution of Space Needs: Over the past 15-20 years, the library has witnessed a change in the relationship with the physical collection. With digital options being more prevalent and more storage options being deployed, the library has the flexibility to explore changes in how it's square footage is used.

Engaging Research: New research methodologies and unique special collections can help engage faculty and researchers. Digital scholarship, visualization and manipulation of large data sets, software assisted qualitative analysis are some of these methodologies, all of which require space for access, support and training.

University Libraries are exploring diverse solutions to address the aforementioned influences in the ways that best serve their campus community. They are organized under the following headings:

- Reflecting Institutional Values
- Engaged
- Open
- Diverse
- Creative
- Healthy
- Sustainable

## Trends and Practices



# Trends and Practices

## Engaging Students

- Access + discovery
- Informal + active learning
- Knowledge creation
- Technology integration

## Rethinking Space

- Renovation
- Multi-use spaces
- Storage solutions

## Engaging Research

- Information visualization and manipulation
- Digital scholarship
- Knowledge mobilization and exchange
- Stewardship + preservation

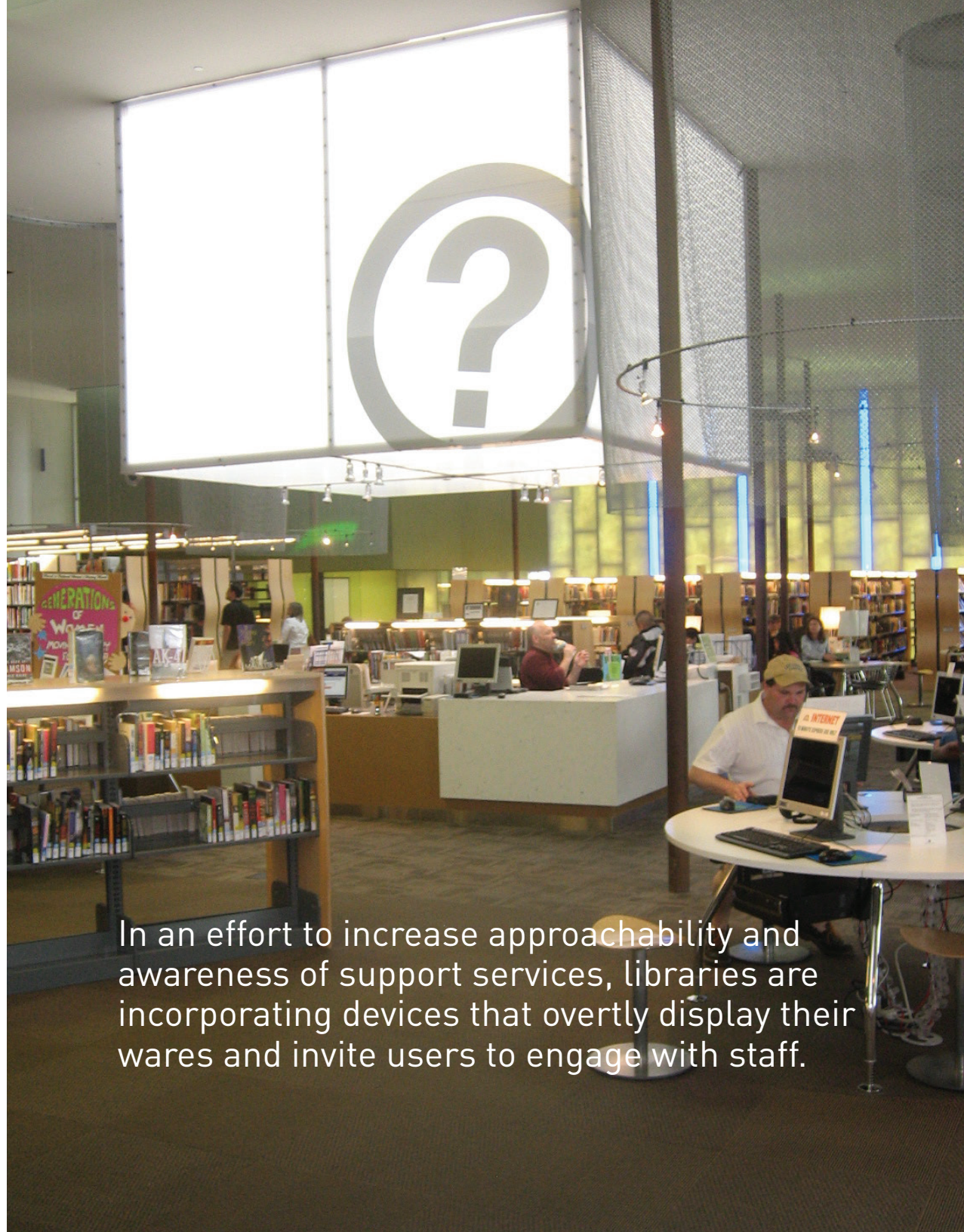


Reflecting Institutional Values



## Open and Welcoming

In an effort to increase approachability and awareness of support services, libraries are incorporating devices that overtly display their wares and invite users to engage with staff.







## Diverse

The community of library users is incredibly diverse — and universities are finding more ways to welcome a wider spectrum of age, cultural heritage, race and language. Technology, staff presence and interpretative elements can help institutions become more inclusive.









Libraries are connecting users with their own health and natural surroundings via architectural and programming solutions.

Healthy and Sustainable











Engaging Students

Discovering the collection is still an important skill to develop!

Libraries are employing more “browser-friendly” storage solutions, as well as the incorporation of more diverse media. The space itself invites users to discover and inquire.”

## Access and Discovery









Today's generation of learners are socially oriented. At the same time, research has shown the efficacy of peer-to-peer learning. For this reason casual, social seating areas are increasingly valuable in today's learning landscape.

## Informal Learning







## Active Learning

Recent trends show an increased focus on active student engagement. Interactive instruction environments, marker spaces, and hands-on labs are now becoming the norm.







## Technology Integration + Content Creation

In today's higher education landscape, creating and sharing content is an important way to explore, demonstrate and share educational outcomes. This can include technology in individual or group settings.

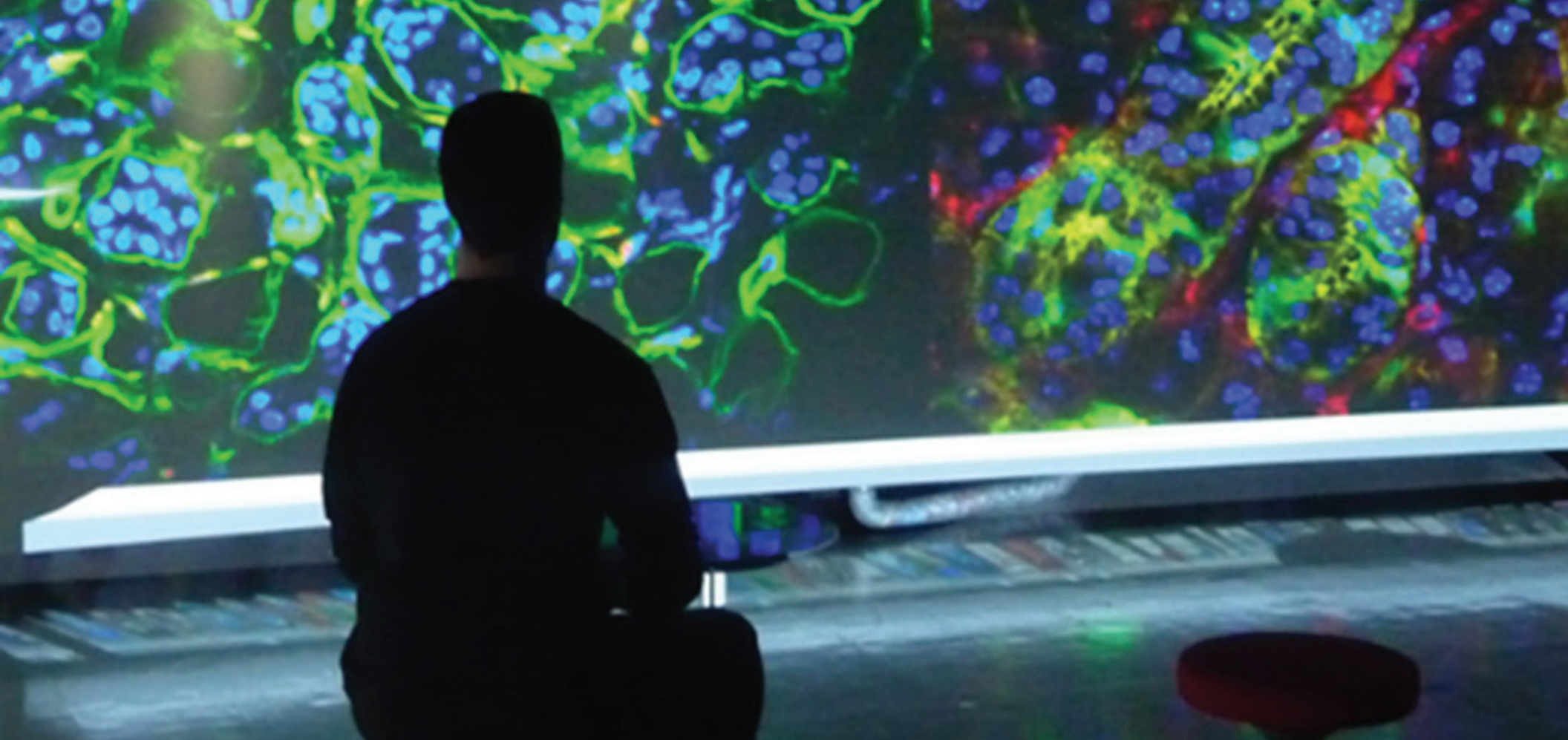






Engaging Research





## Information Visualization + Manipulation

Faculty engaged in research can share and manipulate data being gathered and studied in ways that are increasingly immersive. Room scale displays allow information to be viewed at both the micro and macro levels simultaneously.



Beyond traditional access to information, mobilizing knowledge is about engagement, collaboration, application, and impact.



**Knowledge Mobilization  
+ Exchange**





## Stewardship + Preservation

In an effort to ensure viability of information to be available to future generations, an emphasis on the acceptance, care, curation, digitization, and access of materials is becoming increasingly important.

Preservation of cultural materials is becoming more important every day, as is the new challenge of managing and preserving born-digital objects.



Spaces that allow for the arrival, decontamination, cataloging, storage and access of these materials require specific equipment as well as highly sensitive environmental conditions (humidity, temperature, variability and vibration).



**Stewardship +  
Preservation**





# Rethinking Space



Many universities built libraries post war to accommodate the baby boom college generation. As a result, there is a generation of university libraries at the heart of campuses in need of refresh/renovation.

## Renovation



Often they do not need more space, merely a reallocation of existing space.

## Renovation







## Multi-use Spaces

To make best use of campus space and tailor to faculty and student use patterns, it is key to consider the dynamic use of space over the course of days, semesters and years.

Libraries began as “storage-centered” facilities with space for individual use of those materials. Today, in an effort to devote space toward more learner-centered needs, libraries are deploying a variety of collection storage and access solutions.

Compact storage and high-density storage—both on site and off site—are being utilized to maintain accessibility yet accommodate more space for people and interaction. Additionally, climate controlled spaces are required for conservation and preservation.

## Collection Footprint







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