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Olin Library

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The New Main floor of the Library is Open!

The newly renovated main floor of the Olin library opened in August. It is more spacious, flexible, and will better meet the needs of the 21st century students.

- The whole floor will be open 24/7 during the academic year
- Redesigned and more accessible service points
- New furniture, more comfortable seating, and chairs with tablet arms.
- More flexible group and individual spaces for students
- Librarians more visible and available to assist users
- More computers and power outlets to support laptops
- An expanded coffee shop, with a comfortable café aesthetic

Continue reading for pictures of the new space....
A New Main Floor for the Olin Library

The librarians spent more than a year gathering input from students and faculty, seeking their opinions about what their vision of an ideal library would look like, and the resources and services they wanted in such a space. The needs of 21st-century students are drastically different from when the building was first designed in 1985 when we implemented the first online library catalog at Rollins, and print journals and microfilm were the backbone of a library. We thought long and hard about how the main service areas of Olin need to be updated to meet the needs of 21st-century library users.

The new space has been designed to foster greater collaboration and a sense of community. As information resources and services go digital, students and faculty still need a place to study, together and alone, to meet and mix, and a central location for professional services, specialized computing, and information resources. The main floor now has greatly expanded computing facilities, more prominent access to librarians, I.T. staff, and yet retains the feel of a wood paneled library with books encircling the entire area.

New Second Floor, New Names for Rooms

The redesign of the main floor was an excellent opportunity for us to rename some rooms that either never made much sense, or were no longer accurate. Here are the new names:

Lakeview Lab (formerly the 24 Hour Lab) Now that the entire 2nd floor is 24 hours, we needed a better name for this room.

Lakeview Classroom (Room 211, formerly room 265) This is the small classroom overlooking Lake Virginia.

Library Meeting Room (formerly the Bib Lab.) This name never made much sense to non-librarians, so we gave it a more accurate description. It is still available for booking through the campus EMS system.

Center for Creativity (formerly multimedia lab.) This computer lab is mostly Macs, with high-end equipment and software for multimedia production.
The Secret to a Larger Library Collection
Jonathan Harwell, Head of Collections & Systems

As you probably know, the Olin Library provides tens of thousands of e-books produced by Springer, Ebrary, EBSCO, and other vendors. Some allow an unlimited number of people to read them simultaneously; others allow only one person at a time. These can be read (and searched) entirely on your computer, and in many cases even downloaded to your desktop, iPad or Nook. Springer e-books are in pdf format, which can be downloaded to almost any device.) We also provide Kindles and Nooks for checkout from the library. To provide these books, we have to pay for them, of course.

The e-book marketplace is growing rapidly and vendors and publishers are exploring new ways to work with libraries. One recent development is DDA (demand-driven acquisition) or PDA (patron-driven acquisition) -- two terms for the same approach. In a nutshell, we're able to select e-books (in sets and individually) to add to the library catalog (and also include them in R-Search). Nothing new there, but the difference is that these are books we haven’t even bought.

When you find a DDA e-book in the catalog, you can read it just like any other e-book we've already bought. The library won’t even be charged any money, unless you find it so useful that your level of use triggers a purchase (a one-time perpetual purchase, not an ongoing subscription price). These “triggers” are defined by the e-book provider, and libraries who use DDA find that lots of books are consulted without the level of use triggering purchases. The number of books actually triggered tends to be fewer than those the library would normally go ahead and buy.

So what does this mean for us at Rollins? Well, we know that some disciplines find more use for e-books than others, just like some rely more on journals than monographs. Basically, we just need to know which academic departments are prepared to experiment with e-books. Then when we select books in those subject areas, the ones eligible for DDA will be added as e-books to our library catalog in a weekly upload. Suddenly Rollins faculty and students in these disciplines will find a lot more e-books with instant, seamless access. Users won’t even see a difference between the ones we’ve already bought and those we haven’t. We’ll spend less on these books than we do now, because we’ll only pay if they’re used substantially. More books for less money-- that’s an approach that works and it’s a great example of data-driven decision making. We want to hear from each department.

Expect to hear more about this topic from Your Librarian in the coming weeks, and look for an opportunity to participate in a college-wide faculty colloquium this semester on the various real and potential roles of e-books in the Olin Library collection over the next few years. For more details, contact Jonathan Harwell, Head of Collections & Systems.
New Faces at the Olin Library

Jonathan Harwell, Head of Collections & Systems. Jonathan comes to us from Georgia Southern University. As the Head of Collections and Systems, he leads the team to obtain, license, and catalog the library’s resources (books, journals, databases, videos, etc.) Jonathan will be the liaison for the departments of Philosophy & Religion, and Sociology. Jonathan’s library degree is from the University of Alabama, and he recently completed an M.A. Social Sciences from Georgia Southern University.

Kristen Arnett. Kristen is our new Interlibrary Loan Specialist. She is a 2012 graduate of Rollins, where she won the Howard Fox Senior thesis award for her work on Flannery O’Connor. After eight years of working at the Maitland Public Library, she is ready to shift into academic librarianship. She just began working toward her master’s degree in library science from FSU.

Natalie McMichen. Evening Circulation Specialists. Natalie just completed her undergraduate degree in English literature at Florida Atlantic University, where her English degree concentrated on British literature. She is working on a master’s degree in library science through FSU.

Tutoring & Writing Center on the Move

In January 2013 the Tutoring & Writing Center will move into the Olin Library so that students will be able to get assistance with their studies and assignments from a range of professional and peer educators. Over the fall term staff from each unit will work with the faculty to plan this move and develop what is called the learning commons model of student support.

When completing an assignment or studying outside the classroom, students make use of a range of services; they seek research help from librarians, help with hardware and software from technologists, and help with writing and course content from the Tutoring & Writing Center. As we all know, they don’t do this in a strict order, but iteratively throughout the process depending on the individual student’s specific needs. Co-locating these services in welcoming, accessible, and comfortable space will encourage students to make use of all the services they need. It will also encourage staff in the three units to build on each other’s strengths to improve services.

Expect to hear more about this move as the semester progresses. For more information contact Susie Robertshaw or Jonathan Miller.

Janet Ramirez. Janet is a familiar face to the Olin Library, having previously worked at the library before accepting a position in the Art & Art History department. She is returning to us as a daytime Circulation Specialist. Welcome back, Janet!