The Ideal Research Environment within an Academic Library

Uncovering What It Means To Visibly Support Research Through Space Design

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Darden Business School, Camp Library
Research was conducted at the Darden Business School to in the form of an interactive *Ideal Research Environment* strategic planning study.

Findings of the research culminated in the renovation of one sixth of the Camp Library floor space – 2300 square feet.
Phases of Strategic Planning

Phase One:
Set Goals
Establish Vision

Phase Two:
Assess need by defining research process
Conduct visioning exercises to develop concepts

Phase Three:
Decisions
Design Development
Phase One:
Goals for Strategic Planning

- Expand research footprint and capacity to accomplish research activities.
- Create the ideal research environment
- Design spaces to support at every phase of the research process.
Phase One: Establish a Vision

- Improve the quality and quantity of the research environment by incorporating flexibility and technology into the design.

- The maintain the library environment that supports both learning for the students and research activities for faculty and research staff.
Could *Parallel* activities exist in the same space of the library?
Phase One:
Establish a Vision

Evolution from Library to Research Library
Phase Two: Assess Needs by Defining the Research Process

- Faculty
- Visiting Scholars
- Researchers
- Research Center Staff
- PhD Students
Phase Two: Assess Needs by Defining the Research and Study Process

MBA Students

What are they doing?

What else are they doing?
Phase Two: Assess Needs by Defining the Research Process

Several groups of participants were asked to take part in a “sandbox” activity that allowed for the exploration of actions, technology, and settings that support more effective and innovative research processes.
MAPPING THE PROCESS

FIELD WORK

ACQUIRE DATA

COLLAB W/ RAs

MEET FACE TO FACE

FIELD WORK

REMOTE COLLAB.

READ READING/ PACE

SUMMIT VISITORS

DESIGN DATA COLLECT.

BUILD MODEL

DRAFTS + SUBMISSION

JOURNAL TARGETING/PUBLICATION

CONTRACTS

CONFERENCE
Phase Two:
Establish a Vision by defining specific concepts
Original Data Collection
- Data access & storage
- Informal meeting space
- Quiet work space

Informal Exchange of Ideas
- Social Interaction space
- Café
- Enclosed lounge space

Faculty Production Process
- Desk with meeting space adjacent
- Access to coffee and snacks
- One on one meeting space
- Inspirational space

Exchange/Outreach/Communication of Ideas
- Visiting Scholars – Flexible Meeting Space
- Video conference – Informal meeting space
- Formal presentation space – Celebratory space.
Phase Three:  
Decisions and Design

The conclusions from the “sandbox” activities with faculty and researchers highlighted the fact that space needs of researchers differ at each phase of the research process.

Which aspects would be incorporated in the new design?
Phase Three: Decisions and Design

Offices / Work Spaces:

Quiet
Adjacent meeting area in the office
Personalizable
Phase Three: Decisions and Design

Adjacent Spaces

Move in and out of different types of space throughout the day according to particular tasks
Phase Three: Decisions and Design

Research Suites Concept

- Offices
  - Provides solitude and quiet
  - Opportunity to personalize work space
  - White boards for brainstorming
  - Books cases
  - Bulletin Boards
  - Great light
  - Eye view to other colleagues

- Touch down space for visitors
- Adjacent to informal meeting space
Phase Three: Decisions and Design

Inspirational Space... that is motivating and ecstatically pleasing
Phase Three: Decisions and Design
Informal and Formal Space
Through funding from the Associate Dean for Finance and Administration at Darden, the design work of the University Architect, and the Office of Design and Planning the project was initiated.

Construction started in July of 2011 and completed in November of 2011.

The Batten Institute Faculty, Researchers and Staff moved in December 2011.
Opportunities to downsize the print collection and move offsite

Retrofit of UVA Ivy Stacks

Paul Rittelmeyer
Project Manager
University of Virginia
Director Inter-Library Loan Services
Darden Camp Library renovations reflect the preferred space design concepts that were discovered and documented during the study.
In December 2011 the Batten Institute moved into its new space on the second floor of Darden’s Camp Library. This was a significant milestone for Batten as this is the first time the institute has had a well defined space for research activities. It also contributes to the transformation of the library into a research library for the 21st century.

Annual Report message from Michael Lenox, Associate Dean and Executive Director of the Batten Institute
The Batten Institute’s activities, research and events over the first year after joining the Camp Research Library community.

- Twenty research projects lead to books, chapters, articles, and research reports.
- Sponsor of the Journal of Business Venturing
- Hosted two international research fellows
- Supported the activities of five research groups that developed curriculum and hosted events.
- Created two online forums for researchers in entrepreneurship and innovation
- Supported 32 summer venture internships for students to research and develop business ideas.
- Developed and hosted six academic conferences
Next Steps

Select next research group to join the Camp Research Library community.

Organize a participatory design process for the new research group.

Facilitate the design process, construction, and transition to the new space in the Camp Research Library.
Conference Theme:
Research Information Infrastructure and the Future Role of Libraries

- Role of Libraries in the Development of Research Infrastructures
- Transformation of Libraries and Information Providers to Become an Integral Part of Research Infrastructures
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