

BOOK REVIEW / CRITIQUE DE LIVRE

Planning, renovating, expanding, and constructing library facilities in hospitals, academic medical centers, and health organizations. Edited by Elizabeth Connor. New York: Haworth Information Press, 2005. xxiv, 218 pages. Includes bibliographic references and index. ISBN-13: 978-0-7890-2540-1 (hc.: alk paper), ISBN-10: 0-7890-2540-X (hc.: alk. paper), ISBN-13: 978-0-7890-2541-8 (pbk.: alk paper), ISBN-10: 0-7890-2541-8 (pbk.: alk. paper). US\$34.95 (hardcover), US\$24.95 (paperback).

Planning, renovating, expanding, and constructing library facilities in hospitals, academic medical centers, and health organizations features 13 case studies from three types of libraries — special, hospital, and academic — that have handled the planning, renovation, expansion, and construction of their library to improve and utilize library space more effectively. Moving a library to the basement, merging library collections into one space, and renovating a library to take it to 2015 and beyond are some examples. Regardless of the size or type of library, there is a need to thoroughly plan for such an undertaking. Open communication with all stakeholders, be they staff, library users, architects, or other professionals on the team, is also paramount. And, of course, the information needs of library users must be the top priority. Although libraries embrace the Internet and become wireless, there continues to be a need to preserve and organize print materials.

This book is a result of a message that went out to the MEDLIB-L Listserv, in late 2003, requesting submissions for case studies from librarians whose libraries had undergone a renovation or a move in the last 3–5 years. The case studies cover libraries from private and public institutions in the US and Canada. Each chapter describes a specific institution's objectives, methods, results, and conclusions. The contributors share their approaches and reflect on the lessons learned from their specific experience. Anyone about to embark on such a project can learn from the approaches and strategies utilized by these institutions. The following are the book's chapter titles and brief synopses of the case studies:

Part I: special libraries

- Case study 1. ACOG Resource Center happily moves to the basement (American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Washington, D.C.) – Describes the decision-making and developmental processes involved in designing and building a new space located in a basement. The main lesson learned was that careful planning and groundwork made it possible to achieve a welcoming space.
- Case study 2. Preserving medical history: recent renovations to the Osler Library (McGill University, Montreal, Que.) – Renovations focused on several objectives, including resolving environment, security, access, lack of climate control, lack of space, and restricted hours of access to circulating collection. This library houses rare books, and the importance of involving conservators who could

advise on the best method of moving and storing rare books was highlighted.

Part II: hospital libraries

- Case study 3. Booker Health Sciences Library (Jersey Shore University Medical Center) – The construction project included planning and building a new library in a highly visible area, consolidating the medical and nursing library collections, and a new consumer health collection. The project was funded entirely by private monies. The new library features include areas for quiet study, leisure reading, and collaborative work.
- Case study 4. A tale of two libraries: overview of a merger (two libraries at Trinitas Hospital, Elizabeth, N.J.) – The project was to merge two libraries from two quite different institutions with equally sized collections into one collection with half the space and half the manpower, while satisfying demands for service. Lessons learned were that considerable behind-the-scenes planning inventories, flexibility, contingency planning, stamina, cooperation, and vision are required to ensure a successful merger.
- Case study 5. Renovating a small hospital library (Saint Francis Health Science Library, Oklahoma) – The project included providing an office to the medical librarian, increasing the number of open-access computers, creating less cumbersome traffic flow, and updating the look of the space. All project objectives were achieved within a timely manner. As the collection grows and library user needs change, future revisions may be needed.
- Case study 6. Blending the new with the old: designing a new library in a historic naval hospital (Library Services Department of the Naval Medical Centre Portsmouth) – Designing a new library in a historic naval hospital required the creation of a library with state-of-the-art technology that demonstrated the command's commitment to learning. The main lessons learned were that close attention to detail and ongoing modifications within budget guidelines are essential for success.
- Case study 7. The Hope Fox Eccles Clinical Library renovation project (University Hospital, Salt Lake City, Utah) – Library renovation included creating a more comfortable environment for both consumers and clinicians, improving workspace for staff, maximizing use of space, providing better accommodations for equipment, and improving the overall aesthetics of the facility. Renovations fulfilled the project's goals and maximized on a small space to create a more functional library.

Part III: academic medical center libraries

- Case study 8. Managing a library renovation project: a team approach (University of Massachusetts Medical School) – The goal was to improve the functionality of user service points, increase the overall comfort, improve the general appearance, and update staff and public areas to incorporate current advances in technology. The team-based approach, involving faculty, staff, and students in the decision-making process throughout the project gave

everyone a sense of ownership and pride in a new library. This created staff buy-in and staff support of renovation changes. The main lesson learned was that involving staff and library users was invaluable in completing a project that met the needs of library users.

- Case study 9. Continuous library facility improvement at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center – The methodologies used to continually enhance the library facility to keep pace with program changes and maintain high user satisfaction are described. Continuous improvement of the library facility depended upon internal funding and the work of an internal architect.
- Case study 10. The McGoogan Library of Medicine: a value-added approach to renovation (University of Nebraska Medical Center) – This chapter describes the transformation of a space, at the end of its useful life, to one valued by all library users. This was accomplished by re-wiring and installing network connections, improving the lighting, replacing carpets and wall coverings, and relocating major service points in proximity to the entrance. The main lessons learned were to plan carefully and budget for dust control.
- Case study 11. Ebling Library: planning a three-library merger and move (University of Wisconsin) – The goal was to move and merge the collections and staff of three libraries into a new library facility. Four key planning committees were established: public relations, service integration, information technology, and collections shelving and preparation. The committee structure was successful. They developed timelines, information fact sheets, FAQs, a collection-assessment process, and identified core services desk skills and staffing levels. The main lesson learned

was that a strong communication network alleviated some of the stress associated with planning a merger and move.

- Case study 12. The Welch Medical Library: a new model for the delivery of library services (Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.) – The authors describe the library's master planning effort of the expansion and renovation for the library of 2015. The library is the "circulatory system" that will deliver targeted services and resources wherever needed.
- Case study 13. library renovation planning (Lyman Maynard Stowe Library at the University of Connecticut Health Center) – The renovations were confined to existing space. The main tenet of the renovation was that the library should have a single-point of reference. Another tenet was that all rooms be multifunctional so that they could be computer classrooms, study rooms, or conference rooms. Renovations resulted in increased space functionality and have brought the library into the 21st century.

Planning, Renovating, Expanding, and Constructing Library Facilities in Hospitals, Academic Medical Centers, and Health Organizations is an interesting and insightful resource for anyone contemplating similar projects. The case studies prove that teamwork, communication, and innovation are key to building library spaces designed to meet an institution's needs as well as library user demands.

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