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Collections to Connections: Space Redesign at W.T. Young Library

Jennifer A. Bartlett
University of Kentucky, jen.bartlett@uky.edu

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The library is the academic center of campus, a place where students can not only access print and electronic information resources and the latest information technology, but also get the help to use them. Accommodating the ever-changing research needs of today’s students was the motivation behind the redesign of the second floor space at the William T. Young Library.

Before: Reference Desk as Barrier
• A large wooden desk separates librarian from student
• Students can’t easily observe and work with the librarian

After: Reference Desk as Consultation Space
• Space is open, allowing easy entrance to a new student space behind the desk
• Students can sit and work with the librarian on involved questions

What Do Students Want From the Library?
• A place to find the information resources they need
• A place to access technology, including software, printing and scanning
• A place to meet and socialize with friends
• A place to collaborate on group work and study individually
• A relaxing atmosphere away from dorms and classrooms

Second Floor North Wing Reference Area

Student Collaboration and Instruction Space

Individual study preferences are as varied as our students. A mix of seating and desk area configurations are designed to accommodate public and private alone and group study spaces.

Before: Rows of Shelving Containing Little-Used Print Collections
• Materials included legacy collections that saw minimal circulation
• Student had few places to study on the second floor

After: Additional Space for Group and Individual Study
• A dedicated instruction room may be used by librarians for schedule classes, and by study groups
• Two small group study rooms offer media:scape units
• A variety of seating options include sofas, café tables, and individual study chairs
• Mobile and fixed white boards are available throughout the space