Olin Renovation Site Visit

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Purpose: Background research

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Intended Distribution: Olin Renovation Team

Contributors: RAU team, Olin Renovation Team members

Description: The purpose of this project was to identify recent library building projects for the Olin renovation team to visit before the architects start to sketch out Olin design: “Which libraries should we visit that have recent, renovations/constructions that are user-focused, innovative, that can inform CUL’s design?” Pat Schafer requested this work on behalf of the Olin Renovation Team. This report contains mini profiles for 10 recent building projects: 5 candidates for onsite visits and 5 candidates for “virtual visits.” Selected sites were chosen based on the following loosely-defined criteria: user-centric focus (most all purported to have a user-centric focus), innovative design features, and apparent similarity to CUL’s user profile and/or renovation scope. A mini-profile for each site is included.

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Purpose

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Methodology

I conducted environmental scans via Internet searches, library literature search, and personal recommendations:

- Internet searches were employed using search terms such as “library renovation OR remodel OR construction”.
- Library literature has many relevant resources such as “Library as Place” readings, Library Journal’s annual architecture review, and other resources (Appendix A).
- Suggestions were received from Olin renovation team members and from the committee members of the Library Administration and Management Association Buildings and Equipment Section (LAMA-BES) (Appendix B).

Selected sites were chosen based on the following loosely-defined criteria: user-centric focus (most all purported to have a user-centric focus), innovative design features, and apparent similarity to CUL’s user profile and/or renovation scope. Bias was unavoidably given to building projects with sufficient online (and English language) documentation on which to justify selection. Less well-profiled sites may have been missed due to lack of documentation and the short turn-around time of this project. In addition to academic libraries, I considered non academic libraries such as public, corporate, and government libraries. A good faith effort was made to select a range of good candidates, however, the selection process felt somewhat arbitrary.

Results

The 10 candidates are listed below, each with a brief statement justifying selection. A mini profile of each follows in the remainder of the report. Most are academic institutions; all are located in the US except one UK virtual visit candidate. (A separate list of nearby (2-3 hour drive) visit candidates will be kept on the RAU Olin Renovation wiki space: http://wiki.library.cornell.edu/wiki/display/raup/Olin+Renovation.)

1. Butler Library, Columbia University: very extensive renovation; floor-by-floor construction plan; this project could be very useful for planning the logistics of construction disruption

2. Perkins & Bostock Libraries, Duke University: green building design; information commons; construction still in progress/very recently completed
3. Leavey Library, University of Southern California: relatively older project but this library has served as a model for many other building projects; heavy “Library of the future” focus

4. Olin Library, Washington University, St. Louis: same name!; circa-1960s building; similar project scope

5. MD Anderson Library, University of Houston: enthusiastically recommended by LAMA-BES; extensive renovation; dedicated Honors College space

6. Frank P. Doyle Library, Santa Rosa Junior College: most expensive building project of 2006; interesting noise abatement strategies; green building design

7. Lied Library, University of Nevada, Las Vegas: recommended by LAMA-BES; design award winner, attentive to need for flexibility in design

8. Fayetteville Public Library, Fayetteville, Arkansas: award winning public library; innovative services for young adults (our next generation users)

9. Thompson Library, The Ohio State University: land grant university; similar project scope; early stages of construction

Visit Candidate #1

**Butler Library, Columbia University**  
Butler Library | 535 West 114th St. | New York, NY 10027 | (212) 854-2271  

Selection justification: extensive renovation; floor-by-floor construction plan; this project could be very useful for planning the logistics of construction disruption

Building and construction information

- ARL member library; Columbia’s largest library; humanities/social science focus
- Renovation and expansion of existing building, 1995-2007 (projected); construction in progress (nearly complete); lengthy 5 phase project
- User community: Undergrads 7,407; Grad and professional 12,462; Faculty 3,392
- Project cost: not available; Project size:
- Architects: Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson and Abbott

Key features and upgrades

- Extensive and comprehensive renovations to infrastructure: HVAC, electrical, plumbing, communications, elevators, everything
- Careful floor-by-floor planning to ensure flexibility for future needs
- Many new reading rooms
- New student carrels with improved data and power support
Visit Candidate #2

**Perkins & Bostock Libraries, Duke University**
104 Perkins | Duke University | Durham, NC 27708 | (919) 660-5800

[http://library.duke.edu/about/perkinsproject/](http://library.duke.edu/about/perkinsproject/)

Selection justification: green building design; information commons; construction still in progress/very recently completed

Building and construction information
- ARL member library; Duke’s main library
- Renovation and expansion of existing building, 2003-present, staged renovations
- User community: Undergrads 6,197; Grads 6,627; Faculty 1,667
- Project cost: $49,000,000; Project size: ~133,000 sq. ft.
- Architects: Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson, and Abbott

Key features and upgrades
- Chief priority: “to increase space for student and faculty use"
- Green building design (LEED standards)
- Bostock Library houses the first stage of a new information commons with 96 computer workstations, 87 individual carrels, and 9 group study rooms; an additional new information commons area in Perkins
- Information available from planning stages
Visit Candidate #3

**Leavey Library, University of Southern California**

651 W. 35th. St. | University of Southern California | Leavey Library | Los Angeles, CA 90089-2571
(213) 740-0049

[http://www.usc.edu/libraries/locations/leavey/](http://www.usc.edu/libraries/locations/leavey/)

Selection justification: relatively older project but has been a model library for many other building projects; heavy “Library of the future” focus

Building and construction information
- ARL member library; undergrad library
- New building in 1994, expanded in 1998
- User community: Undergrads 16,500; Grad and professional 16,500; Full-time faculty 3,200
- Houses 45,000 books; building size: 86,500 square feet; seating capacity: 1,475
- Project cost: not available; Project size: 86,500 sq. ft.
- Architect: Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson, and Abbott

Key features and upgrades
- Several other library projects cite and have even visited this model information commons as a source of inspiration/information
- Currently running a "Library of the Future" contest
- New multimedia commons, podcasting studio
- Computer workstation clusters on multiple levels
Visit Candidate #4

Olin Library, Washington University, St. Louis

Washington University Libraries | Campus Box 1061, One Brookings Drive | St. Louis, MO 63130
(314) 935-5400

http://library.wustl.edu/renovation/

Selection justification: Same name!; circa-1960s building; similar project scope

Building and construction information
- ARL member library; main library
- 1960s-era building renovated 2001-2004
- User community: Undergrads 7,460; Grad and Professional 6,067; Faculty 3,098
- Renovation project has received several local and regional awards
- Project cost: $36,950,631; Project size: ~193,000 sq. ft.
- Architect: Kallman, McKinnell & Wood

Key features and upgrades
- Added 17,000 square feet on the main level, a cybercafé, and 24-hour study space
- Upgraded HVAC, electrical systems, bathrooms, lighting (emphasis on natural lighting)
- Expansive Help Center that consolidates several services
- Technology Center; doubled number of workstations; wired access at most seating areas
- 24 hour study space; lockers
- Increased shelving capacity (including compact shelving); book capacity 1,755,000
Visit Candidate #5

**MD Anderson Library, University of Houston**
University of Houston Libraries | 114 University Libraries | Houston, Texas 77204-2000
(713) 743-1050

[http://info.lib.uh.edu/building/index.html](http://info.lib.uh.edu/building/index.html)

Selection justification: enthusiastically recommended by LAMA-BES; extensive renovation; dedicated Honors College space

Building and construction information
- Academic institution; main library
- Renovation and expansion of existing building, 2002-2006
- User community: “34,000 students, staff and faculty, plus numerous other users from the city of Houston and surrounding communities,” Undergrad ~26,000, Grad and professional ~7,000
- Project cost: $54,874,307; Project size: ~354,400 sq. ft.
- Architect: Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson, and Abbott; Morris

Key features and upgrades
- More than doubled individual study spaces, more than doubling computer workstations
- 24 hour study spaces with vending machines, computer workstations, copiers, lockers, etc.
- Dozens of group study areas
- Dedicated space for the Honors College
- Collection space expansion from 1.6 million volumes to an estimated 2.4 million including compact shelving
Virtual visit candidate #1

**Frank P. Doyle Library, Santa Rosa Junior College**

Frank P. Doyle Library | Santa Rosa Junior College | 1501 Mendocino Ave. | Santa Rosa, CA 95401
(707) 527-4391

[http://www.santarosa.edu/library/about/newlibrary.shtml](http://www.santarosa.edu/library/about/newlibrary.shtml)

Selection justification: most expensive building project of 2006; noise abatement strategies

Building and construction information

- Academic institution; main library of Santa Rosa campus
- New building 2006
- User community: 35,000 students
- Project cost: $46 million; Project size: 145,000 total sq. ft.
- Architects: Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson and Abbott; TLCD (local architect)

Key features and upgrades

- Interesting noise abatement strategies
- Very hi-tech: multimedia classrooms, iPod tours, 280 computer workstations
- Green building design
Virtual visit candidate #2

**Lied Library, University of Nevada, Las Vegas**

University Libraries, UNLV | 4505 Maryland Parkway Box 457001 | Las Vegas, NV 89154-7001
(702) 895-22861

[http://www.library.unlv.edu/about/history.html](http://www.library.unlv.edu/about/history.html)

Selection justification: recommended by LAMA-BES; design award winner; attentive to need for flexibility in design

Building and construction information
- Academic institution, UNLV’s main library
- New building 1998-2001
- User community: Undergrads 21,853, Grads 6,080, Faculty and staff 3,300
- Project cost: $55.3 million; Project size: 302,000 sq. ft.
- Architect: Welles-Pugsley and Leo A. Daly

Key features and upgrades
- Automated Storage and Retrieval system with 2 million volume capacity (current collection: ~950,600 volumes)
- RFID-based circulation
- Media Distribution System “provides viewing and listening capabilities for the media collection via an integrated video network system.”
Virtual visit candidate #3

**Fayetteville Public Library, Fayetteville, Arkansas**
401 W. Mountain St. | Fayetteville, AR 72701 | (479) 571-2222

[http://www.akronlibrary.org/construction/newmain.html](http://www.akronlibrary.org/construction/newmain.html)

Selection justification: award winning public library; innovative services for young adults

Building and construction information
- Public library
- New building 2004
- Project cost: $23 million; Project size: 270,000 sq. ft.
- Architect: Gwathmey, Siegel & Associates

Key features and upgrades
- *Library Journal’s* 2005 Library of the Year
- Wi-Fi and 200 computer workstations
- Innovation services for young adults
- Green building design (LEED standards)
Virtual visit candidate #4

Thompson Library, The Ohio State University
1858 Neil Avenue Mall | Columbus, OH | 43210-1286
(614) 292-6154

http://library.osu.edu/sites/renovation/

Selection justification: land grant university; similar project scope; early stages of construction

Building and construction information
  • ARL member library
  • Renovation and expansion of existing building, 2007-2009 (projected)
  • User community: Undergrads 38,479; Grad and professional 13,429; Faculty ~3,500
  • Land grant university
  • Project cost: ~$100 million; Project size: not available
  • Architect: George Acock Associates

Key features and upgrades
  • Construction in progress, 1-phase project (entire library closed during construction)
  • New HVAC, electrical, life safety, plumbing
  • New networking infrastructure
  • Green building design (LEED standards)
Virtual visit candidate #5

Idea Stores, London, UK
Idea Stores & Libraries | London Borough of Tower Hamlets | The Shadwell Centre | 455 The Highway | London | E1W 3HP | 020 7364 5630

http://www.ideastore.co.uk/index/PID/426

Selection justification: innovative case of a library system redefining itself: “network of adult education, library and information services, in 7 state-of-the-art buildings, all in local shopping centres.”

Building and construction information
- Public libraries
- All new buildings: 4 completed projects and 3 branches in planning/construction stages
- (Whitechapel branch) Project cost: 16,000,000 pounds; Project size: 3,400 sq. meters
- Architect: Adjaye Associates

Key features and upgrades
- state-of-the-art learning spaces & classrooms
- mobile library services
- spaces for other experiences: listening rooms, dance studio, art spaces, therapy room
- wide range of information, learning, and experience services for all age groups
Appendix A

Resources

Because the Renovation Project is a multi-year project, the Research and Assessment Unit plans to update and add information to the resource section of this report throughout the course of the Project. For this reason, the appendix is not included here. Instead, it can be found on the RAU’s Olin Renovation wiki space below:

http://wiki.library.cornell.edu/wiki/display/raup/Olin+Renovation
Appendix B

Email response from Gail Kennedy, chair of the Library Administration and Management Association Buildings and Equipment Section (BES).

Ellie:

Sorry I didn't get this done sooner. These are the responses that came to me after I forwarded your request for libraries that might be considered outstanding in their innovation and attention to users. I sent this out to members of the BES Executive Committee as well as members of the Buildings for College and University Libraries Committee and other academic librarians and architect members of BES. The list is longer than 10 but still not overwhelming. Also, some new libraries were mentioned and I included them because they may have features that could easily be incorporated in a renovation. I hope this is helpful to you in your planning. Thanks for consulting BES. We love to offer help on building related questions!

Good luck with your building plans.

Gail

* Addition to the University of Louisville's main library by Hillier. It is a new frontispiece that engages the library with the campus green, provides a wonderful public space with a 24/7 café and causal study area. There was a presentation on this at ALA and the librarian offered a copy of her presentation on DVD to all who requested it. Joe Rizzo of Hillier made the presentation.

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* Marquette University (Raynor Library) - addition/renovation
* University of Maryland - Health Sciences/Human Services (in Baltimore) - new
* UNLV's Lied Library - new
* Penn State Harrisburg - new
* Middlebury College - new
* Bryant University - new
* University of Maryland - Fine Arts Library - new, in Fine Arts Building
* University of Southern California - Leavey Library (original information commons, now expanded)
* Appalachian State - new
* University of Kentucky - Young Library (compact shelving)
* Nova Southeastern University - new
* University of Washington - renovation
* Agnes Scott College - addition/renovation
* Dickinson College - addition/renovation

* From a building design perspective I think the Dartmouth College library with its central street of services is "user centered" in its organization.

* (from Judy Myers, Asst to the Dean, Univ of Houston Libraries) I will immodestly recommend the expanded and renovated M. D. Anderson Library at the University of Houston.

The library was designed by SBRA. We conducted very effective user studies and focus groups. We learned from our users what they wanted in public spaces, and SBRA translated the desires into a beautiful and functional space. You can see some images at: http://info.lib.uh.edu/building/bldgimages/index.html

Several features that I particularly like in making this a user centered library are:
1. Users enter the library into a magnificent space that speaks of aspiration and learning. Within the first few steps into the building the user sees the 24 hour area with food, the two main service desks, computers, books, magazines, study space, and parts of the floors above and below. We particularly wanted to show everything the library is about as a user enters.

2. We consolidated user services into two main service desks that face each other across the atrium.

3. The computer services area is state-of-the-art, large enough (almost) and has group technology rooms as well as individual and shareable computers.

4. There are dozens of group study rooms. A group study area has not only a concentration of groups study rooms, but also group study tables in a large area of the library. This was an extremely popular area before the renovation, and it is now attractive, functional, and even more popular.

5. The building also has a variety of types of study spaces, many along windows. There are enclosed carrels, open carrels, tables of various heights and sizes, and lounge furniture. Study spaces are in everything from "see and be seen" areas to the remote and quiet areas.

6. With the renovation Special Collections was moved from the seventh to the second floor, with the entry visible from the first floor. Special Collections is an important part of our services, and now their location reflects that.

7. We have two of the finest library instruction classrooms in the country, plus a third classroom that may not be quite as fabulous but which completes the range of spaces to fit the range of instruction needs.

8. All of the collection is in open shelving. Not all users browse, but those who want to, can. Beginning next year part of the collection will be moved into user-accessible compact shelving. The building has a capacity of over 2 million volumes.

9. In my opinion we have done a good job of balancing flexibility with cost and effective operations. As Ellie notes, needs change quickly. We made a number of revisions during construction, and others since, and have provided in low-cost ways for the future needs we can anticipate, such as for even more computers and electrical outlets.

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