

The Space of Academic Libraries In Future

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Abstract

In today's educational environment, simply focusing on library space planning is not sufficient. Academic leaders are immersed in ongoing discussions about strategic investments and outcomes that impact institutional priorities, use of resources and the modeling of spaces on campus. This critical, evidence-based decision-making must be aligned with library planning efforts. Those who predicted the demise of libraries in the face of emerging technology failed to understand how libraries could transform to become beacons for both interactive learning and knowledge creation across both the physical and digital realms. With an estimated 89% of today's college students using smart phones in addition to laptops and tablets, libraries need to offer learning opportunities across multiple mediums that allow students to access local and global networks of information. That access allows not only access to knowledge but also the ability to easily create and share knowledge. This mobility shift is where 21st-century teaching, learning, and the creation of new knowledge intersect. Libraries must now foster a positive ecology of relationships, connectivity settings, and tools layered together to foster discovery and learning within the context of a dynamic academic framework.

This article will focus on the Awareness and understanding of trends can help us actively plan for the work and for the work with the communities the Libraries serve, open new opportunities to innovate and experiment with and within these "currents" shaping society, and better enable to envision the integral role the academic Libraries can play in the future.

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