




Overview

1. York U's New Learning Commons
2. Models - Learning Commons as:
 - a) A Learning Space
 - b) A Co-location of Supports for Student Academic Success
 - c) A Collaborative Partnership
3. Outcomes & Impacts
4. Future Directions for the Learning Commons @ York U

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1. York U's New Learning Commons



Grand Opening : October 2010

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The impetus for the LC redesign



- 1) Need more student seating
- 2) Need to accommodate a new model of academic support (Learning Commons)
- 3) Changing needs of learners



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Phases of Renovation



Phase 1 Learning Commons
(17,000 sq ft)



Phase 2 Learning Commons
(9,000 sq ft)



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Scott Library, 2nd fl. floorplan

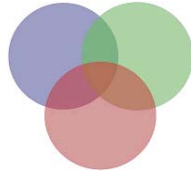


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What is a “Learning Commons”?

The Learning Commons as:

- A Learning Space
- A Model for Academic Support
- A Collaborative Partnership

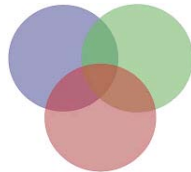


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2a) LC as a Learning Space



What does this photo tell us about the Library?

- Scarcity of seating
- Continued importance of the library as a place of learning
- New ways of studying



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Three Paradigms in Library Design

A Short History of Library Design

A Library for:

- I. -the reader
- II. -collections
- III. -the learner



Bennett, Scott. (2009) "Libraries and Learning: A History of Paradigm Change". *Portals: Libraries and the Academy*, 9, 2.



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Library spaces in the 21st Century

Figure 1. Analyzing the Learning Landscape



From: Dugdale, Shirley, "Space Strategies for the New Learning Landscape", *Educase*, Mar/Apr 2009.



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Influences: Internal



"While it is tempting to mimic space solutions delivered by other libraries, such appropriation circumvents staff-owned discovery processes that create a deep understanding of what is being built. The best implementations of informal learning spaces are "home grown," reflecting deep understanding of populations being served." - Crit Stuart

<http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/planning-a-learning-space-tool-kit.pdf>



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Student Consultations

- Affinity Focus Groups (5)
- Survey Tours (27)
- Flipcharts Surveys (over 2 wks)
- Online Survey (500+ responses)
- Design Charrettes (1 so far)
- Interviews & Observation Studies



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Principles of the LC @ Scott

Themes from *21st C Learning Space: A Model for the Scott Library*.

- Integration of Academic Supports
- Academic Town Square
- Library as "Third Place"
- Social Learning
- Diversity of Function
- Flexible Use
- Technologically rich

21st Century Learning Space: A Model for the Scott Library
<http://libnurl.com/4ofw5v>



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LEARNING COMMONS @SCOTT LIBRARY



Lorna Marsden Salon



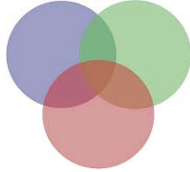
The Collaboratory



2b) LC as a Model for Academic Support

The Learning Commons as:

- A Learning Space
- **A Model for Academic Support**
- A Collaborative Partnership



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Integration of Academic Supports

From *21st Century Learning Space: A Model for the Scott Library*:

- “The collaboration of academic supports in the form of a Learning Commons acknowledges the holistic, recursive and non-linear nature of the scholarly process.”



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Integration of Academic Supports

The “Service Commons”:

“A collection of academic support services located in the Library to support students in their learning, writing, research and use of technology.” – N. Schmidt

“Academic Literacies” are at the core of the LC mission:

- Academic success rests on a complex mix of competencies that includes research, writing, organizational and other critical skills.



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Collaborative Partnerships

York LC Partners:

- York University Libraries
- Writing Department
- Learning Skills Services (CDS)
- Career Centre

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LEARNING COMMONS @SCOTT LIBRARY



The Learning Commons Hub

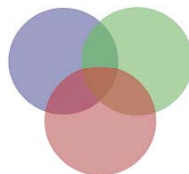
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2c) LC as a Collaboration

The Learning Commons as:

- A Learning Space
- A Model for Academic Support
- **A Collaborative Partnership**



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LC as a Collaboration

From *21st Century Learning Space: A Model for the Scott Library*:

- “Academic skills such as writing, research and learning skills are understood to be intertwined, not separate domains. Collaboration in support of these skills better supports students.”

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LC as Collaboration

Implications:

- The Learning Commons is not limited to a particular space
- The Learning Commons @ Scott Library is seen as an *instance* of the “Learning Commons”
- Challenge of rethinking our work from a holistic perspective (eg. what does research look like from the writing and learning skills perspectives?)
- Vertical integration into the curriculum

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New Directions for the Collaboration

- The Virtual Learning Commons : SPARK (Student Paper and Academic Research Kit)
- Involvement with creation of new Teaching Commons @ York
- Partnering with student success projects on campus (eg. supplemental instruction, peer mentoring, etc.)
- Developing Academic Literacies summer institute for faculty
- Learning Commons for the sciences?



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The Proof in the Pudding?

- A Learning Space
- A Model for Academic Support
- A Collaborative Partnership



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Discussion



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