

SCU's Library for the 21st Century Fusing Resources for Learning, Creativity

Not so long ago, Ken Burns captured our imaginations by combining old photographs from library archives with newly-recorded readings of archival texts, and traditional and contemporary music to bring a critical time in U.S. history to life.

By animating existing resources in new ways for his prize-winning PBS series, "The Civil War," Burns helped Americans understand the history and lessons of our Civil War in fresh and immediate ways – factually, emotionally, viscerally. He made history come alive by combining the rich holdings of library collections and the power of new media. "The Civil War" was at once a teaching tool, a learning experience for its creators, and a successful experiment in fusing resources to impart knowledge.

Santa Clara's new library will create similar opportunities for our faculty and students. They will use technology to advance learning in ways that were not even options when Burns started his work. Imagine Santa Clara students and faculty bringing international immersion experiences and environmental studies into their classrooms, creating art and exploring religion, finding innovative means of presenting history and diverse cultures – and doing all of this with technological tools and resources that are impossible to accommodate in the current library. And, what they produce will have positive impacts on this campus and beyond, as it is shared through the wired and wireless networks that permeate the facility.

Santa Clara is known nationally for the quality of its programs and its strategic vision of a vital community of scholars whose members collaborate as partners in learning and scholarship. This new library is essential for Santa Clara to maintain this quality, according to the most recent accreditation report by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The new library will overcome deficiencies of space, fragmentation of resources, and integration of services that have made it harder over time for the university to carry out its commitment to the 'teaching scholar' and 'community of learners' models.

Santa Clara's new library will leverage technology and people, information content and management tools, learning and teaching in a single facility. Its 194,000 square feet of flexible, adaptable space will offer inviting and effective areas for study. Combining information resources and support services to create a superb learning and scholarship environment, this library for the 21st century will satisfy the current and future needs of students and faculty...in a setting on our 153-year old campus where creativity and scholarship will flourish together.

Great universities must have great libraries. By making an investment in this library for the 21st century, benefactors will be making perhaps the most impactful gift the university could receive over the next 50 years.

Overview

The library for the 21st century provides a comprehensive, innovative learning environment to support a community of scholars:

- state-of-the-art, specialized student classrooms for media manipulation, language learning, and technology training
- “always on” space available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to satisfy student needs to access study and learning resources at times most convenient for them
- “incubator” spaces to house “start-up” ventures by entrepreneurial faculty exploring the latest ideas in learning technologies
- immediate access to the full range of Santa Clara University’s learning resources, including those employing the newest technologies, to improve teaching, learning and scholarship
- a large collection of information resources, optimally stored in an automated retrieval storage system (ARS) that combines compact storage of less-used print materials with rapid, on-demand access
- 34 flexible, technology-infused group rooms to foster collaboration in teaching and learning

Flexibility and long term adaptability designed in:

- flexible design that allows spaces to be used for more than one purpose, and training rooms or labs that are also open to the SCU community when not scheduled for dedicated use
- adaptable design by means of raised flooring that provides routes for data and power cabling and heating and ventilating distribution, making it much less expensive to modify facilities to address newly identified needs or to exploit new technologies

A learning friendly environment:

- bright, airy, open spaces that welcome people for intense study or friendly conversations
- a café, art installations, and spaces where talking is not just permitted but encouraged
- the distinctive Alameda Reading Room on the third floor overlooking the Alameda Mall provides quiet study space that can also host lectures and receptions

Lower Level

The lower level is the most traditional of the library's spaces, housing the open stacks that hold the majority of the 250,000 volume browsing collection, as well as a secure area for the compact shelving that stores materials in the University's Archives and Special Collections. Among the features of this level:

- a major reading area with a "living room" feel offers 3,200 square feet of comfortable study and conversation space, naturally lit from the windows surrounding a varied two-story/three-story atrium
- a balcony from the main floor looks down on art work scattered among the seats and embedded in the floor coverings, making the living room the perfect place to "see and be seen"
- eight collaborative workrooms make it easy for students to gather print resources when working on joint projects, while the wireless and wired networks that permeate the facility bring the resources of the Internet to their fingertips

Main Floor

The main floor is designed to be an active and exciting space. The entry service point offers quick answers to the most common questions, or referral to staff located elsewhere in the building for assistance with more complex questions. Among the features of this level:

- the Information Commons, an open technology hub that offers the high performance hardware and top shelf software that students are unlikely to be able to afford and comfortable seating where students can bring their own computers and work near support staff who can answer questions
- a Multimedia Lab, providing space to instruct students on the use of the latest video and sound editing software, and on graphics development tools. The Lab is designed for collaborative work as well as instruction, with equipment arranged on five pods, each providing work space for six students and sharing a plasma screen for display
- the Faculty Development Lab, accommodating up to 20 faculty mastering new technologies, and providing workspace for them to create new learning opportunities for their students. Instructional technology staff members are nearby to confer about pedagogy, or to provide one-on-one assistance
- the Language Lab, containing specialized hardware and software to facilitate language learning, 25 networked computers for students to work individually with language sources or with a single student or instructor screen shared by the whole class
- a café off the entrance offers refreshments that clients can bring with them into the library
- walk-up workstations provide a chance to check email or browse the Web
- the Main Floor, the heart of the library's 24/7 service, offers both table and lounge seating, eleven collaborative workrooms, the current periodicals collection, and the circulation point for materials stored in the automated retrieval system

Level Two

The second level of the new library embodies the concept of a lyceum, a quieter, research-oriented space. Here is where clients will find subject specialist librarians able to answer more complex questions and to assist in finding and using appropriate information resources. Here, too, online information resources will be available to alumni, offering them a “knowledge base” that supports lifelong learning in a changing world. Among the features of this floor:

- open stacks of print reference materials
- focal point for access to many of the university’s licensed electronic resources
- two computer-based classrooms that support information literacy instruction and technology training
- Santa Clara’s Government Documents Depository, open to the public, including official federal and California State documents in print and electronic formats
- group study rooms equipped with collaboration and display technologies as well as traditional carrel and table seating. Lounge seating is clustered under a light well open to the third floor

Level Three

Level Three is focused on providing quiet study space for students and faculty through collaborative workrooms and table, carrel, and lounge seating. This plan follows a general design philosophy of providing quieter spaces as one moves up in the building. Among the features of this floor:

- the Alameda Reading Room, an elegant and appealing area offering 2,300 square feet of light-filled and inviting space for quiet reading and reflection overlooking the central north-south mall running through campus. In addition to its role as a study retreat, the Alameda Room can host faculty or author lectures, or receptions for as many as 150 people
- the Department of Archives and Special Collections, which looks out over the south portion of campus and provides exhibit space, a reading room, and staff to assist patrons using materials which are paged from the Lower Level compact shelving, via a dedicated elevator
- outdoor seating on three terraces (one adjacent to the Alameda Reading Room) that allows students to enjoy Santa Clara's Mediterranean climate while reading or socializing
- incubator rooms for experimental applications of new learning technologies
- a 30-seat, drop-in computer lab for general student use
- a service counter to assist people with computer problems that cannot be resolved at the entry service point on the Main Floor
- open stacks housing that portion of the browsing collection not located on the Lower Level.

Automated Retrieval System (ARS)

Joined to the library will be an Automated Retrieval System (ARS) similar in design to the four currently in use at U.S. libraries.

The ARS is an 8,260 square foot structure that will have the capacity to store 900,000 less frequently used volumes – 150,000 more volumes than the current collection.

The computerized technology in the ARS will retrieve any item in less than five minutes. Patrons retrieve materials from the ARS by locating the desired item in the online catalog and clicking a button on the screen. This directs one of the computer-controlled cranes within the ARS building to select the bin containing the desired item and deliver it to a “picking station,” where it is removed by a staff member and made available for circulation. Among the benefits of the ARS at Santa Clara:

- increased library space for interactive learning and technology stations
- significant increase in speed of stocking and retrieving books because the computerized bar code system does not require that they be stored in the same location each time a book is used
- increased, cost-effective storage capacity allows for future growth of the collection
- integral part of the new building, providing flexible shelving options on-site for library materials, rather than through off-site warehousing
- allows for rotation of materials, which may be placed on open shelves initially and moved into the ARS if they are not highly sought so that other, more recent acquisitions can replace them on the library’s open shelves

The Technology Investment within the Library

There is approximately \$12 million worth of technology associated with the new library, including:

audio/visual \$3,000,000

display systems and electronics for the collaborative workrooms, video conferencing facilities, entry displays, multimedia for the information commons and media lab, etc.

computers \$1,300,000

personal computers (PCs, Apple, UNIX) for the information commons, learning labs, and staff

networking \$4,800,000

switching fabric, edge equipment for both wired and wireless networking, copper and fiber optic cabling for all locations, including installation costs

ARS \$ 500,000

three cranes, servers and software to drive the cranes and interface to OSCAR, and the networking connections to the ARS

campus infrastructure \$2,500,000

changes to our campus-wide cable plant related to moving the equipment center from the current IT building to the new facility: additional telephone and networking electronics to equip the service area interconnects around campus, new cabling and the construction costs associated with it.

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