Technology enhanced library spaces

SCONUL webinar 20th February 2024

Ciara McCaffrey, University Librarian & Director, Library & Information Services
Today’s presentation

About the University of Limerick
Technology enhanced library spaces
Strategic context & making the case
Design & delivery
Measuring impact
Future plans
University of Limerick (UL) overview

50 years old

Total Staff 2000

Total Students 18000
Undergraduates 13000
Postgraduates 5000

10% International students
8% Disadvantaged students
6% Disability enrolments
## About UL Library

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<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of seats</td>
<td>2,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total floor area</td>
<td>16,608 sqm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library staff</td>
<td>53.6 FTE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Print book stock</td>
<td>467,376</td>
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<td>ebooks</td>
<td>483,445</td>
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<tr>
<td>eJournals</td>
<td>60,000</td>
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<td>PC’s/docking stations</td>
<td>168</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laptops for loan</td>
<td>96</td>
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2018 building extension – €31M project

Doubled library size & seating

Technology-infused

Contains:

- Silent & collaborative study spaces
- 21 bookable rooms for students
- Faculty & postgraduate reading rooms & bookable spaces
- Special Collections & Archives
- Automated Storage & Retrieval System
ARC (Automated Reserve Collection)

500K book capacity

Less shelving on floors

Lots more new spaces

More information available at:
Video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRpa5E6bTyA

The Edge@UL Library

The hub of digital scholarship
Audio production labs
Data visualisation lab
The Makerspace
Loanable technology
Wellness
Strategic context & making the case

Emerging demand for these spaces
• Engaged pedagogy
• Collaborative, creative learning
• Digital skills

Why the library?
• Equal access to all disciplines
• Digital equity
• Library service model
• Declining focus on print = reimagining spaces
• International practice
Design & delivery

**Design**
National and international: The Hunt Library NCSU, Georgia Tech, Mount Royal University, University of Calgary, University of Galway Makerspace, University of Sheffield
UL: FabLab, School of Engineering

**Staffing model**
Project Librarian / Learning Spaces Manager
Student led (on placement & hourly paid)
Library Technician
Head of Digital Scholarship & Systems and Head of Collections & Spaces

**Challenges**
Staffing and upskilling
Working with Procurement, Estates, Health & Safety takes time
Tricky technology that dates quickly
Naming spaces
Faculty engagement
## Measuring impact

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<tr>
<td>25K</td>
<td>Group study room bookings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14K</td>
<td>Laptop loans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>680</td>
<td>Technology loans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4000</td>
<td>Makerspace: visits, queries, workshops, 3D prints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000</td>
<td>Greenscreen and Audio Lab bookings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>740</td>
<td>Rest sessions in 6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>Solo booth bookings in 17 days!</td>
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Future plans
Thank you

Contact details

www.ul.ie/library/library-digital-edge

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  University of Calgary