

# University Park Libraries Facilities Master Plan

The University Park Libraries Facilities Master Plan outlines the strategic vision for the physical plant of the Libraries by providing a framework for thoughtful long-term decision making that is aligned with the libraries' programmatic and pedagogical goals. It is intended to guide improvements to existing facilities and identify potential areas of growth. It depicts the thoughtful organization of space based on studies completed by the Libraries to outline their future service goals, and describes opportunities for potential future projects.

The master plan will be used to advance the goals of the Libraries with each investment and design decision, from day-to-day practical facility needs to major capital expenditures. By planning ahead, the Libraries have been able to identify project priorities that will help align facility and operational investments with the long-term view.

## Overview of Planning Process

In the spring of 2012, consultants Wesley Boomgaarden and Dona Straley (from The Ohio State University Libraries) were contracted to provide space planning consulting services to the Libraries. They utilized *University Libraries Strategic Plan, 2008-2013* as a guide for their evaluation and recommendations. Their work began in earnest in April with facilities tours and interview sessions with various library departments, students, and planning experts at University Park. Their final report, *Pennsylvania State University Libraries – University Park: Libraries' Space-Planning Consultancy* was delivered on July 6, 2012. It provided an assessment of the Libraries' use of assigned spaces and presented options for near-term and intermediate-term changes.

The report noted that even though there is a major shift to electronic storage, the growth in physical material collections continues, especially in special collections and for collections of distinction. It also addressed the shift in library operations to improve the student experience, to provide for a variety of learning styles and space types, and to integrate new technologies, as seen in the recent implementation of the first phase of the Knowledge Commons in Pattee Library.

At the Dean's Forum on September 4, 2012, there was a review of the report and an introduction to the master planning process that OPP's Division of Campus Planning + Design (CP+D) would undertake in the fall, informed by the space planning report. To kick-off the master planning effort by CP+D, tours were provided of all Library facilities at University Park to Gordon Turow and Steven Watson on September 21<sup>st</sup> and November 28<sup>th</sup>.

Following the Dean's Forum, the Libraries Management Council and the University Park subject libraries' unit heads completed a formal review the report. They identified those recommendations they considered the most important for the Libraries, added recommendations that were missing from the report, and assigned priorities to the various recommendations. During this process, input was also solicited from the Supervisor Action Team Steering Committee. The Libraries Management Council submitted their report, *Space Planning: Review and Recommendations*, on January 20<sup>th</sup> of 2013. A review of the report was conducted during an administrative retreat on February 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. The

refined recommendations provided by the administration following this review provided the basis for the development of the master plan program.

From March through July of 2013, several meetings were held between CP+D and the Libraries leadership, including Dean Barbara Dewey and Kimlyn Patishnock, to determine how the various recommendations would impact the facilities master plan and develop a program that would provide a structured, yet flexible, framework for future transformations of the University Park Libraries that met their near-term and long-term programmatic goals.

On August 6th, a retreat was held with representatives from the various library departments to review the draft *University Park Libraries Facilities Master Plan* and work in groups to provide specific input on the Current Priorities of the plan. Feedback included thoughts on activities required to advance each project, identification of interdependency between various projects and other factors, and identifying the elements most critical to success. Following a report-out by each group, a “dot exercise” was completed that allowed each attendee to identify what they thought were the top priorities for the Libraries. The input received during this meeting was integrated into the final draft of the plan during subsequent project meetings in the fall of 2013.

## Organization of Plan

The University Park Libraries Facilities Master Plan contains three categories:

***Current Priorities*** include items for which funding is available from the capital plan, college funds, or donors. It also includes front-end planning and design tasks that can be done in the near-term to better understand feasibility and funding needs for future projects.

***Future Opportunities*** are items that are beyond the current capital plan and have no predictable time-frame. However, these potential projects are key future improvements to facilities that will allow the Libraries to move toward service and operational goals.

***Long Term Possibilities*** are items that may be well into the future, but are still critical in informing decision-making processes throughout the evolution of the plan.

Conceptual floor plans have been prepared to illustrate the location and interrelationship of the various master plan components. These plans have been number coded to correspond to the numbers assigned to each item in the master plan program.

It is important to note that the master plan is an “opportunities plan” that defines desired improvements and changes as they become feasible. It is neither an implementation plan nor a commitment of funds. However, it is a valuable component within the University’s decision making processes.

The order of items is not intended to provide a specific sequence of project implementation. The order shown has been influenced by current projects status and funding, adjacency considerations, and scale of projects, in order to create a logical plan narrative. The location of an item within the master plan list doesn’t preclude it from proceeding ahead of earlier items within the plan.

## **Master Plan Program**

The following is the list of thematic categories that were developed by the Libraries to assist in the creation of an initial list of program elements pertinent to the facilities master plan. The draft program below represents a distillation of the content of those separate categories into a unified list of program elements that is organized by time-frame, has unified redundancies, and eliminated operational items that are independent of facility changes.

- Theme 1: Areas for student work and learning
- Theme 2: Physical Collections and Annexes
- Theme 3: Special Collections
- Theme 4 & 6: Public Spaces and Functions
- Theme 5: STEM Libraries
- Theme 7: Spaces for Consultation and Teaching

## **Overarching Library Priorities**

1. Be cognizant of service models consistent with teaching, research, and service trends in the 21<sup>st</sup> century library.
2. Create flexible spaces which are designed to accommodate collaborative, quiet, and consultative teaching and learning. These spaces should be technology rich and encourage creativity, learning, teaching and research for Undergraduate and graduate students, and faculty.
3. Create flexible display and exhibit spaces to showcase activities/collections/people in order to complement teaching, learning, and research.
4. Foster an environment where spaces and technology supports/enhances/encourages interdisciplinary research; incorporating emerging services and technologies; and provides for integration of new areas of research and collections not currently foreseen.
5. Improve the delivery and housing of collections to enhance the maintenance and space for collections-related services and staff.

## ***Current Priorities***

- 1. Develop program, design, and construct Phase 7 of the Knowledge Commons – Emerging Digital Scholarship** (Theme 1+4+6+7)
  - Incorporate/add specialized study and workspaces for digital scholarship for graduate students and faculty.
  - Create spaces which will provide opportunities to develop and showcase emerging research methods and enable deep collaboration between the libraries and academic programs.
  - Incorporate flexible spaces which are designed to accommodate collaborative, quiet, and consultative teaching and learning
  - Feasibility Study shows creation of a central atrium space in the location of the current outdoor courtyard that links Central and West Pattee on the ground level with an open stairway connecting to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. A 2nd floor infill space contains meeting rooms with break-out spaces and a new corridor to connect West and Central Pattee on this level. Further consideration should be given to a 3<sup>rd</sup> floor infill for additional meeting space (potential grad student dissertation writing center)
  - Project planning should be cognizant of contiguous spaces and services which may be impacted or reconfigured in response to Phase 7 improvements.
  
- 2. Finalize plans for expansion of MacKinnon’s Café and renovate ground floor of West Pattee** (Theme 1+4+6)
  - Ensure expansion of café incorporates a variety of library student learning spaces with multiple functionality
  - Enhance media services and collections used by students in the Knowledge Commons
  - Coordinate with Phase 7 planning and phasing
  
- 3. Reconfigure the existing Arts & Humanities** (Theme 1+2)
  - Create student spaces incorporating emerging services and emerging technologies
  - Create research services and related spaces for teaching and learning
  - Be cognizant of contiguous spaces and related services
  
- 4. Develop a comprehensive plan for an offsite, high capacity facility which ensures efficient delivery and organization of the libraries physical collections** (Theme 2+3)
  - Re-allocation of collection spaces in central campus to student centered spaces
  - Reduction and consolidation of disparate storage locations for more efficient operation
  - Creation of more secure environment for valuable/rare collections
  - Adherence to appropriate HVAC/environmental standards to meet preservation standards
  - Space provisions for related services and staff
  
- 5. Develop a comprehensive plan, program, and scope for conservation lab** (Theme 2)
  - Implement a conservation program that conforms to existing standards, serves as an industry leader in setting new standards, and serves as a resource in conservation practices and methodologies
  - Consider needs in development of off-site facility planning

- 6. Provide an expanded suite of services intended for more advanced researchers through a Research Hub (Theme 1+2)**
  - Offer a more centralized and effective service delivery
  - Create a central service point for referrals, reference, and research services
  - Support for advanced research services, including specialized research software and multi-media
  - Create a variety of student spaces which incorporate emerging services and technologies
  - Coordinate planning with other efforts in Paterno Library
  
- 7. Identify spaces to repurpose, reconfigure, or expand for student use, potential partnerships, and/or staff (Theme 1+7)**
  - Possible spaces to be considered: Ground floor Paterno, E126, E202, E303, E402; W107, W113, E108 and others to be identified.
  - Potential for highly visible and easily accessible student space adjacent to main library entrance
  - Portion of space could also potentially serve for expansion of Special Collections depending upon the space needs for on-site collections
  - Study Loading Dock operations to determine space requirements for shipping/receiving, processing, etc.
  - On-site processing/project space needed for reviewing collections, working on exhibits, and processing book collections
  
- 8. Develop a comprehensive plan for services on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Floors of West Pattee in conjunction with design and implementation of improvements to structural deficiencies (Theme 2+4+6)**
  - Create a variety of student/user spaces for teaching, learning, research and collaboration
  - Space should be technology rich
  - Be cognizant of contiguous spaces and services
  - Proposed uses must conform to weight load requirements
  
- 9. Review and develop a comprehensive plan and concept for a Science Research Commons in collaboration with our academic partners (Theme 5)**
  - Create a library which contributes, reflects, and advances the quality and status of Penn State's research and teaching in the STEM disciplines
  - Create synergy between the STEM disciplines which fosters and inspires interdisciplinary research and emerging scholarship
  - Incorporate flexible spaces which are designed to accommodate collaborative, quiet, and consultative teaching and learning
  
- 10. Consolidate Special Collections to create efficiencies in security and access to allow students and researchers to use the collections (Theme 3)**
  - Create a variety of student/user spaces for teaching, learning, research and collaboration
  - Reduce and consolidate disparate storage locations for more efficient operation, ensuring adequate growth and appropriate storage
  - Create more security for valuable/rare collections
  - Consolidate Service and Collection areas into a single location in Pattee/Paterno complex
  - Ensure appropriate workspace for staff functions, consider location and synergies with other units when considering location
  - Ensure appropriate display spaces throughout

## **Future Opportunities**

11. *Complete Design and Construct Expansion of MacKinnon's Café* (Theme 1+4+6)
  - See Item 2
12. *Design and Construct Annex Expansion or additional facility* (Theme 2)
  - See Item 4
13. *Implement renovations for Research Hub / Social Science Cluster in Paterno Library* (Theme 1+2)
  - See Item 6
- 14. Consolidation of named/donor spaces that are to remain on-site** (Theme 3)
  - If it is determined that a portion of the separate special collections currently located throughout Pattee-Paterno are to remain on-site, they could be consolidated into the footprint of the SCL in Paterno (expansion of SCL footprint may be considered).
15. *Design and Construct conservation lab improvements* (Theme 2)
  - See Item 5
- 16. Reconfigure W206 for student use** (Theme 1)
  - Create study and gathering space
  - Could be included as part of Central Atrium project (Knowledge Commons Phase 7)
- 17. Improve space for juvenile collections (5th fl. Paterno)** (Theme 1)
  - Create seating for reading, studying, and gathering
- 18. Complete renovation of EMS Library in Dieke following Steidle renovations** (Theme 5)
  - Re-envision EMS Library by creating a commons area with a variety of study, consultation, media/technology, and research services.
19. *Program and design spaces identified for student use.* (Theme 1+3)
  - See Item 7

## ***Long-Term Possibilities***

20. *Design and Construct upgrades to Branch Libraries in conjunction with College leadership*

*(Theme 5)*

- *See Item 9*

21. **Upgrade Pattee Stacks seating and study areas** (Theme 1+2+4+6)

- Increase student space along windows by removing a portion of the stacks and adding study carrels, seating, lighting, and electrical service
- Feasibility Study required to determine impacts of conversion from stacks to seating on code compliance and accessibility