Methods:

- Anecdotal patron responses given to staff
- Gate count
- Patron space utilization
- Redesigned their work areas for staff
- Expanded quiet study areas
- Designed new collaborative space
- Weeded and consolidated Reference Collection
- Moved current journals, other than the Browsing Collection, to the second floor with the bound journal volumes
- Created a “Browsing Collection” area on the first floor

CHALLENGES:

- The computer lab was redesigned to provide more collaborative space
- The AV collection was weeded, updated, and more fully integrated into the collection
- A new leisure space was created in the AV Study Center
- Equipment checkout was moved to the first floor for patron convenience
- A new leisure space was created in the AV Study Center
- The AV collection was weeded, updated, and more fully integrated into the collection
- The computer lab was redesigned to provide more collaborative space

Results:

- Open, light-filled spaces have attracted more users
- Student collaboration using library space has markedly increased
- Parts of the staff were reunited in a single work space for the first time in years
- Positive acceptance of the first floor project moved a renovation project for the third floor which houses an AV Study Center and computer labs from the drawing board to reality
- Equipment checkout was moved to the first floor for patron convenience
- A new leisure space was created in the AV Study Center
- The AV collection was weeded, updated, and more fully integrated into the collection
- The computer lab was redesigned to provide more collaborative space

Conclusions:

- Patron reaction has been overwhelmingly positive
- Observations have shown:
  - The renovations to library space with its emphasis on collaborative study areas has reversed the statistical trend toward a declining gate count
  - Observation of collaborative space usage showed that more students were working at tables and computers on a daily basis
  - Anecdotal responses shared at the Reference Desk have been overwhelmingly positive
  - The wireless network has been extended throughout the library, providing increased access to our electronic resources
  - Older buildings and spaces can be “modernized” without great cost by opening space and creating more inviting areas to attract students
  - Involving the entire library staff creates ownership of the new space and generates further ideas for improvement

Marketing Efforts:

- A new bookmark was distributed
- New library directory signage was posted
- An article on the renovations was printed in “Progress”, the Medical Center newsletter
- The Virtual Library Tour on the Himmelfarb home page was revised to reflect the space changes

Objective:

An increase in electronic resources, modification in both users’ and staff’s working space, and an internal initiative to create a single Service Desk, all resulted in a recent redesign of the library’s first floor. This poster will demonstrate how completion of this project has affected users’ perception of the library and influenced future plans to renovate other library spaces.

Changing Space Needs:

A First Floor Renovation and Assessing Its Impact on Designing the Electronic Library of the 21st Century

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