

The Final Frontier? Library Space Across Campuses

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In November 2014, the Herman B Wells Library celebrated the grand opening of the [Scholars' Commons](#), a major renovation of the first floor of Wells' East Tower, intended to facilitate a variety of scholarly pursuits. Among its many features are consultation rooms for group collaboration, a secure reading room for those working with restricted Auxiliary Library Facility (ALF) items, a new lecture hall for non-curricular presentations and programming, and the IQ-Wall intended to facilitate research enhanced through visualization. (To learn more about the creation of the Scholars' Commons, check out the interview with Angela Courtney in the Fall 2014 issue of *InULA Notes*, "Research Now: New Partnerships, New Environments, New Goals.")



The library as space has been a significant point of discussion in library literature for decades now, and adjusting library space to meet the changing needs of patrons plays a significant role in keeping the library relevant over time. This article highlights recent changes to library space at libraries across Indiana University. Many thanks to those who contributed information to this article:

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Indiana University East



IU East (IUE) recently redesigned space to create learning pods to facilitate many different types of learning. These pods include collaboration tables with large computer screens that have been used for everything from small groups viewing foreign language films to nursing cohorts projecting their own laptops onto the larger screen for collaborative research. In addition to shared space, IUE included an “inner sanctum” in the library stacks for quiet, individual study space. Finally, this redesign includes purpose-driven space, such as space designated for the Center for Service-Learning,

with materials to help students prepare for service in the community, and specialized features in the Curriculum Center designed to draw attention to particular collections.

Indiana University Kokomo

IU Kokomo Library is in the midst of an ongoing project to consolidate their print collections, thereby freeing up space for additional study areas on the first floor of the library. Last year this consolidation project allowed them to add a dozen computer workstations on the main floor. Current consolidation efforts are intended to create group and individual study space throughout the library. As a part of this project, the library will purchase a selection of furniture as a pilot on the main floor; they will then solicit feedback from their patrons on what type of furniture they prefer in that space to help inform future decisions for the longer range project. Their ultimate goal is a substantial renovation of the main level to include additional group and individual study rooms and open space.



Indiana University Northwest



In the last few years, IU Northwest has created an Information/Learning Commons with sections on all three floors of the library. The first floor Information Commons includes an Adaptive Technology Lab, a Multimedia Lab, and a Cyber Café. This year Northwest also secured a grant from the Indiana State Library to purchase a microform scanner that allows digitization of Library microfiche/microfilm resources.

Indiana University South Bend

In 2013, the Educational Resource Commons moved into an expanded new space on the 2nd floor of the new Education and Arts Building. It also received a new name, thanks to the generosity of Dorothy J. Wiekamp. Now named the [Dorothy J. Wiekamp Educational Resource Commons \(WERC\)](#), the resources, services, computers and state-of-the-art production equipment is intended to support excellence and continued growth in teaching education and learning. Rather uniquely, the WERC is not intended for use by just the faculty and students of IUSB's School of Education; local teachers are encouraged to use this facility too, as well as parents, tutors, and homeschoolers.



Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne



The Helmke Library is gearing up for a major architectural renovation in the coming years. Phase one has been completed, involving new landscaping, walkways, a plaza, and bicycle parking. Phase two will begin in December and will consist of a major architectural renovation of the library interior. The renovation includes an update of infrastructure systems, from HVAC to fire alarms to lighting, as well as significant space usage transformations. Each floor of the library is being designed to support collaborative learning, through versatile seating, flexible work space, and the latest technologies. The construction will be completed with a large quiet study room on the fourth floor, and a high-tech interactive classroom on the third floor. To learn more about the changes being made and to follow progress on this project, you are invited to check out the Helmke Refresh [website](#).