

Transforming our Library Reading Room for a Leisure Reading Collection

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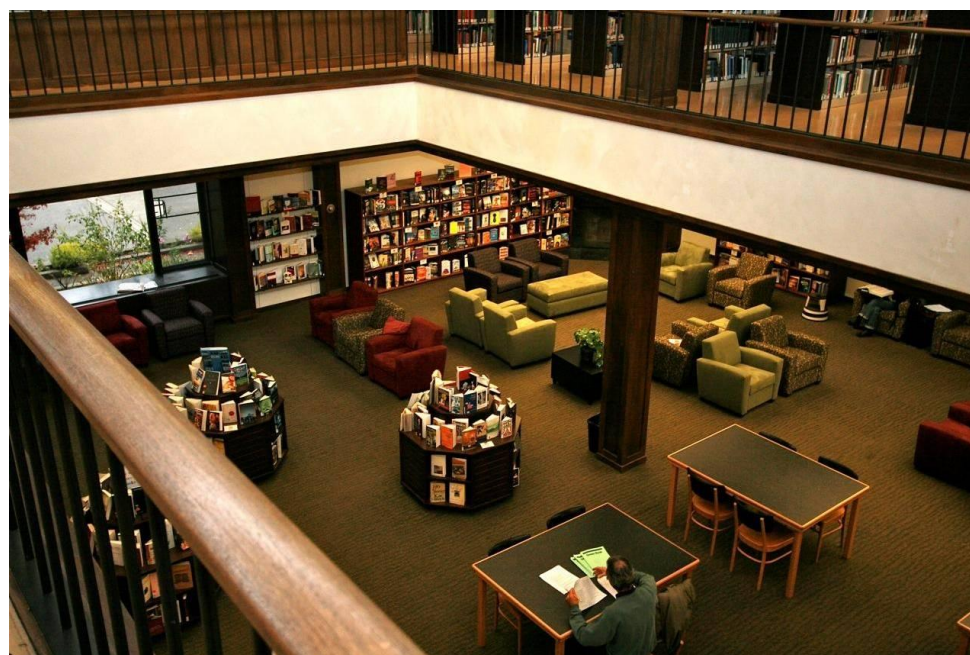
Alemany Library, Dominican University of California, San Rafael, CA 94901

Introduction

A major goal of Dominican University of California's new strategic plan is to transform our library into a center where students can develop a life-long habit of reading. Our drab 1960's style reading room was the ideal location to refurbish and to locate our new leisure reading collection of books and magazines.

To provide a pleasant environment for the students to relax and browse, we updated the room with new carpeting, shelving, tables, chairs, and ottomans. We wanted to change the philosophical perception of the library so the students would have an inviting place to satisfy both their educational and entertainment needs.

We then added a leisure collection of books and magazines which is kept up-to-date with new purchases and ongoing weeding. Our goal is to increase the reading amongst the students and improve their college experience; and so far our project has been well-received on campus with good circulation and student usage of the reading room for browsing, reading, and studying. Our reading room is the result of what good leadership and planning can accomplish.



View of the newly remodeled reading room with leisure collection from the second floor of the library

A Plan

- Attract students to library
- Entice students to read more
- Update reading room for comfort, reading and studying
- Keep up-to-date with reading materials, displays and weeding.

"I had an unexpectedly wonderful moment two weeks ago when in the middle of a presentation about my library's short-range strategy I displayed a photo of Dominican's lovely popular reading room...The change-making image from Dominican wasn't a comparison of what money can do. That photo was a comparison of what leadership can do" (Schneider, 2009).



Amy Whiteley, Assistant Director, and Gary Gorka, Library Director implemented the plan for the reading room and leisure collection.

Beginnings

- from old tile floors to new carpeting
- no space for books to new shelving and kiosks
- from funky old chairs & tables to new chairs with laptop tables and study tables
- additional electrical outlets added for computers
- new moveable ottomans for added comfort



From the before to the after pictures—how the reading room was transformed



Budget & Purchasing

- \$3000.00 annual budget
- Buy from local bookstores and online when necessary
- Purchase paperbacks when available
- Decisions based on book lists from newspapers, library journals, and patron and staff suggestions
- Ongoing weeding

Best Sellers

Hardcover Fiction
House Rules
The Help
Fantasy in Death
Worst Case
Paperback Fiction
Little Bee
A Reliable Wife
The Last Song
Shanghai Girls



newyorktimes.com

Shelving & Display

- Genre designations
 - Genre sticker on each book for shelving
 - Labeled with LC numbers for tracking
- New books displayed on kiosk
- Books faced out to browser
- Stands for paperbacks
- Rearrange frequently

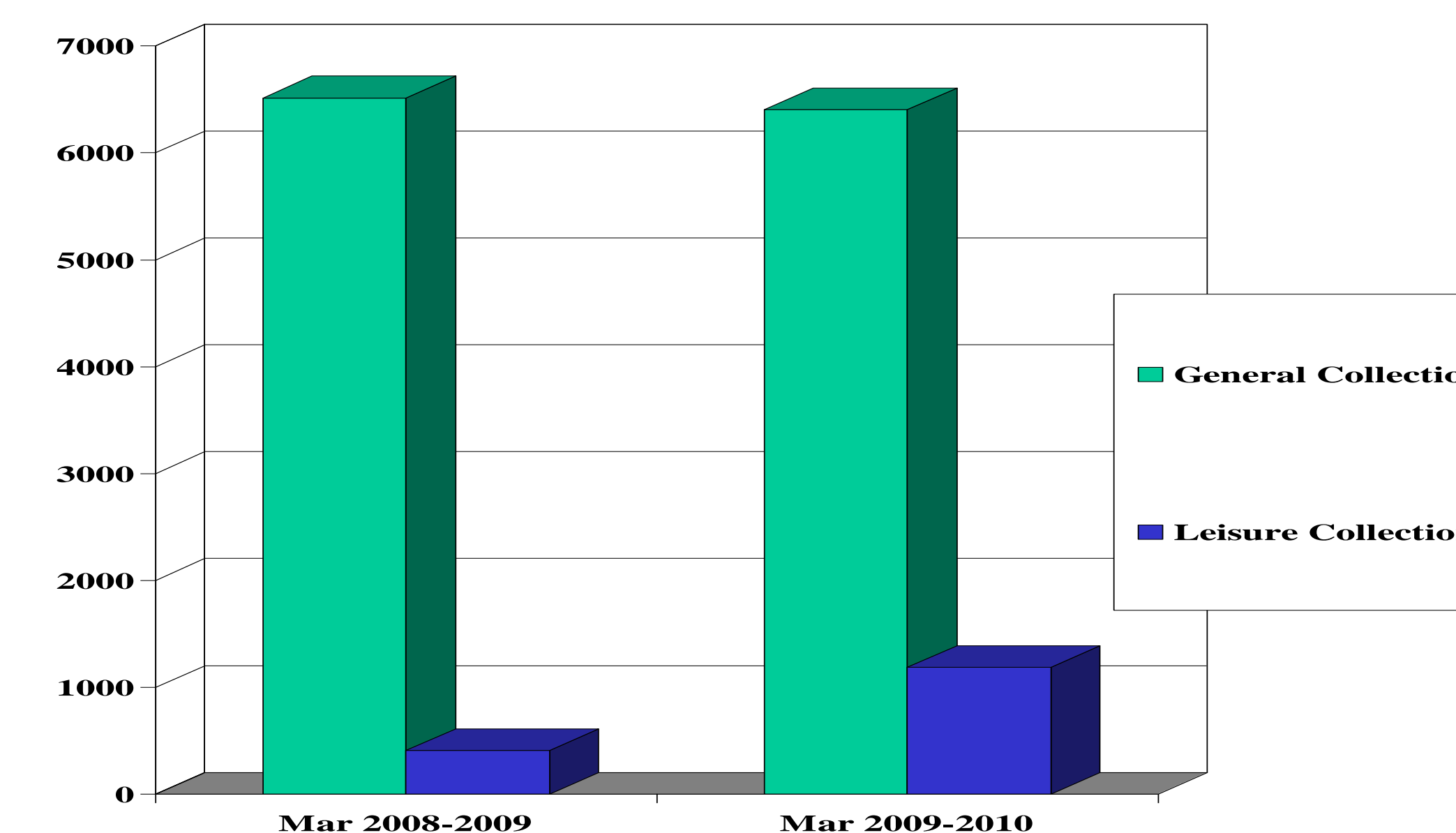


Marketing

- Blog
 - Updates on newly added books
- Library Thing
 - “Catalog by genre” as first word in tags
- Facebook
- Suggestion Box
- Events



Circulation Statistics



Results—Student Satisfaction

- Increased usage of reading room
- Improved check out of reading material
- Not only student, but also faculty and staff approval of collection



Graphic Novels



Browsing the Kiosk

Literature cited

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For further information

Please contact suzanne.roybal@dominican.edu. More information on our library can be obtained at <http://www.dominican.edu/academics/resources/library>. Make note on the library homepage of our blog, leisure reading collection on Library Thing and our facebook link.

