

Transforming Our Library Reading Room for a Leisure Reading Collection

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This poster presentation highlights the success of our renovated reading room and the addition of a leisure reading collection in an academic library. One of the goals of our library strategic plan is to improve service to our community and to change the philosophical perception of our library, so that students would have an inviting place to satisfy both their educational and entertainment needs. 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 then began adding a collection of popular books and magazines which is kept up-to-date with new purchases and ongoing weeding of the collection. The collection is much more than a couple of books shelved in a back corner and is visible to students upon entering the library. Our primary goals are to increase the reading among students and improve their college experience. So far it is successful and continues to flourish as demonstrated by our continuously improving statistics. As is shown in our poster, this project is a collaborative effort and we ask the community for both book and magazine suggestions. To publicize the reading room, we have used both traditional marketing methods and are also implementing social networking with a Facebook page, posting new books to our Blog, and adding the collection to LibraryThing, which is listed on our library homepage. Overall, our project has been well-received on campus with good circulation and student usage of the reading room for browsing, reading and studying.