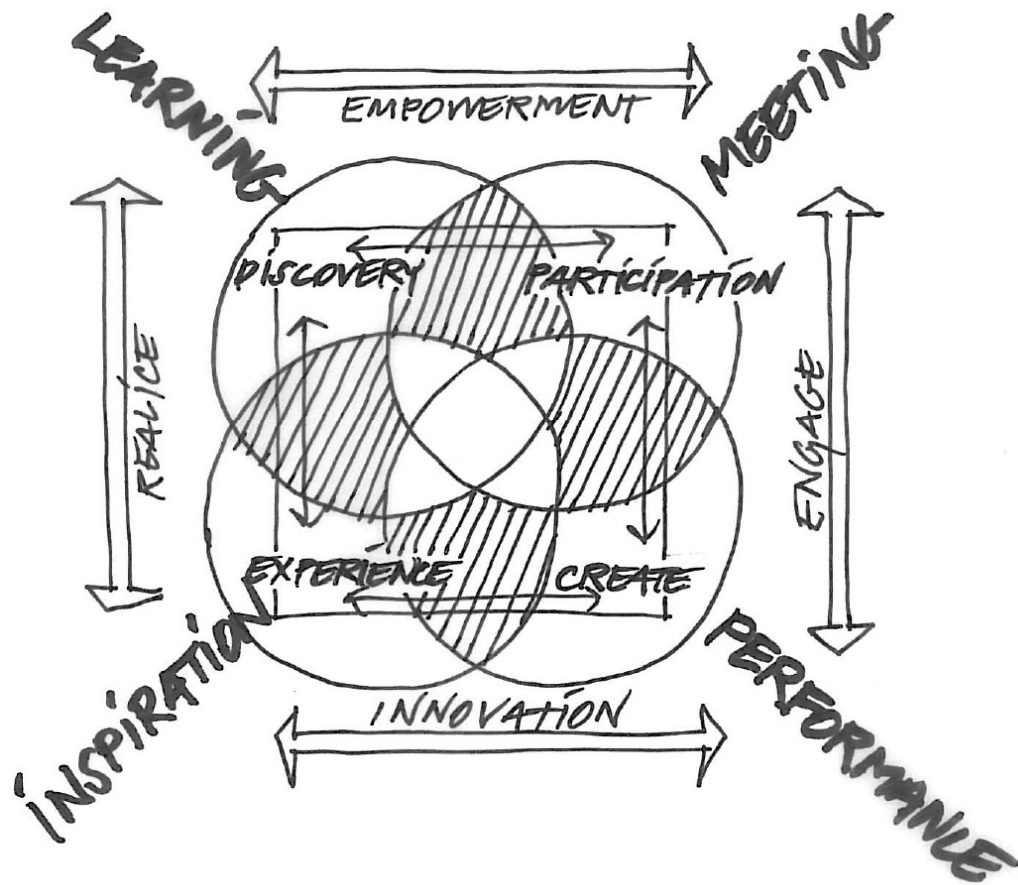


Designing Libraries for the 21st Century – Sep 29, 2025

Strategic Master Space Planning: A Roadmap for the Future

Perkins&Will



It is important to acknowledge that this gathering takes place on the ancestral and unceded lands of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy – including the Seneca (Onondowa'ga'), Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Mohawk and Tuscarora Nations. Their enduring stewardship and knowledge traditions continue to shape this land, despite the injustices of colonization and broken treaties

As library professionals, we should work to honor aural traditions, land-based learning, and Indigenous knowledge systems that have thrived here since time immemorial

Genesee River (Ji-ih-dzeh in Seneca)



“When the Lion Walks In: Embracing Change in Our Libraries”

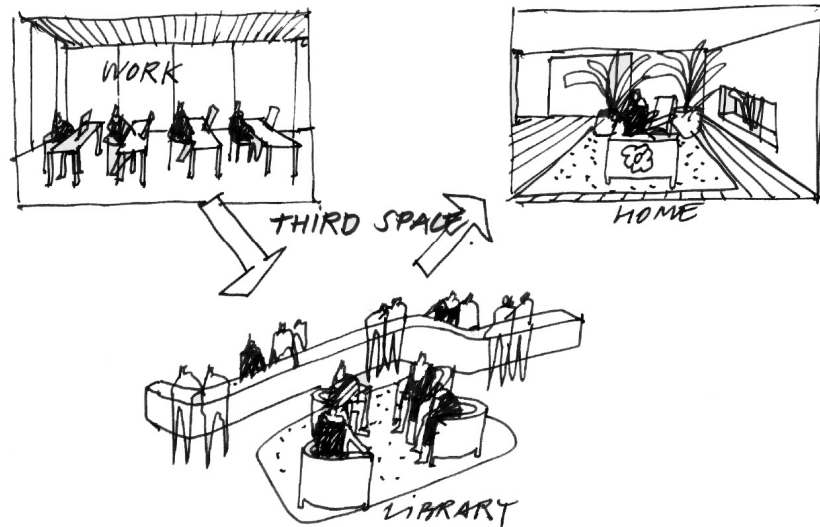
What first feels disruptive can become transformative. Librarians are not just keepers of order — we are change agents who turn surprise into possibility, and rules into opportunities for re-imagining the library.

The next day, the lion came early again. This time, Miss Merriweather asked him to lick all the envelopes for the overdue notices.



Lessons learned – 3 ideas

- Key ingredients of a successful plan
- What to do before starting a plan
- How to keep the plan alive



Ingredients for a successful library space plan – A recipe for success



Bold Ambition — Determined to make the library a renewed hub of campus and community

Visionary + Tactical: A compelling narrative paired with a clear roadmap for transformation

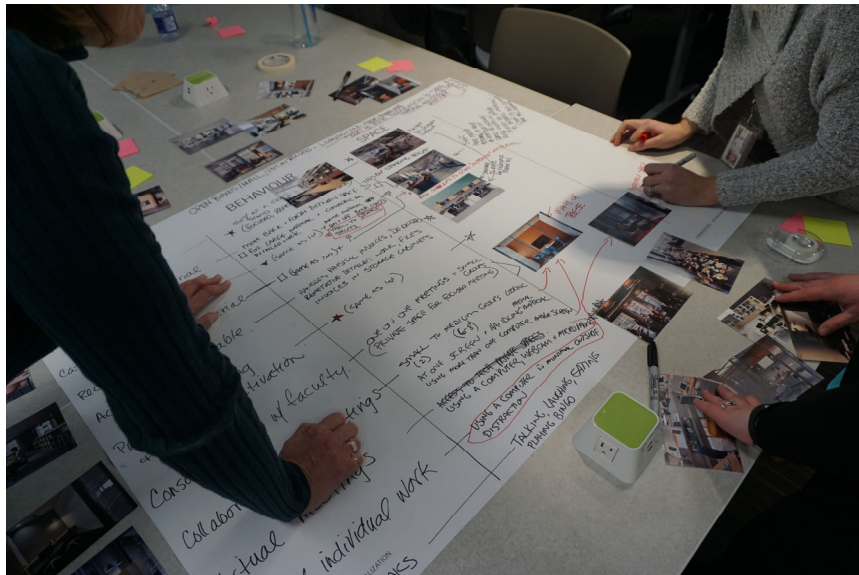
Place-Based Identity: Celebrate the library's unique culture and connection to community



Consultative & Inclusive: Grounded in broad user engagement

Data-Driven & Agile: Responsive to change, informed by evidence

Prioritized Goals: Define both what to pursue and what not to do

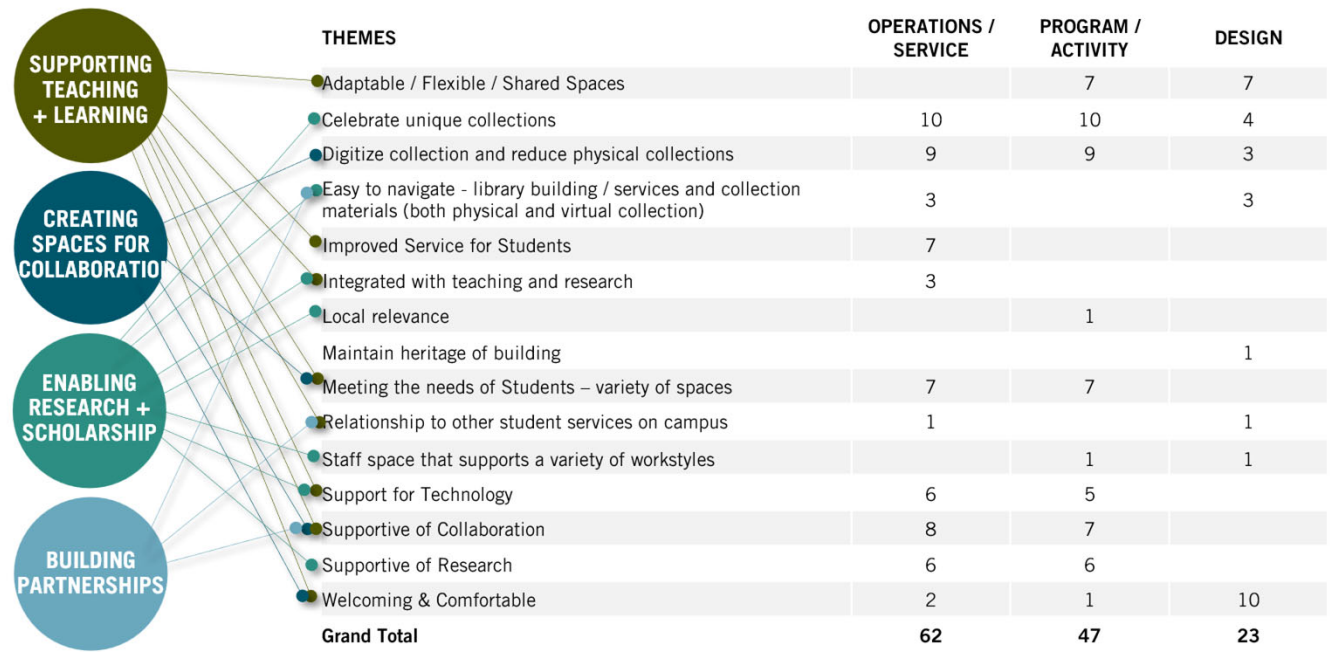


Future-Focused: Boldly oriented toward relevance and innovation – not “we have always done it this way”

Championed & Owned: Led by a strong champion and an advocacy team



What to do before starting.....some lessons learned



Identify the big moves – Align the community around what the future library should feel and look like.

Peer Inspiration – Benchmark libraries that reflect your aspirations.

Senior Partnership – Engage a senior administrator as an active, integrated partner.



Innovation Comfort Zone – Define how far you are ready to stretch beyond the familiar.

Big Buckets of Change – Set high-level directions for Collections, Staff, and Services.

Conceptual Roadmap – Frame the nature of changes in clear, conceptual terms.



Communicate Early –

Share the coming transformation with staff and community.

Inclusive Structure –

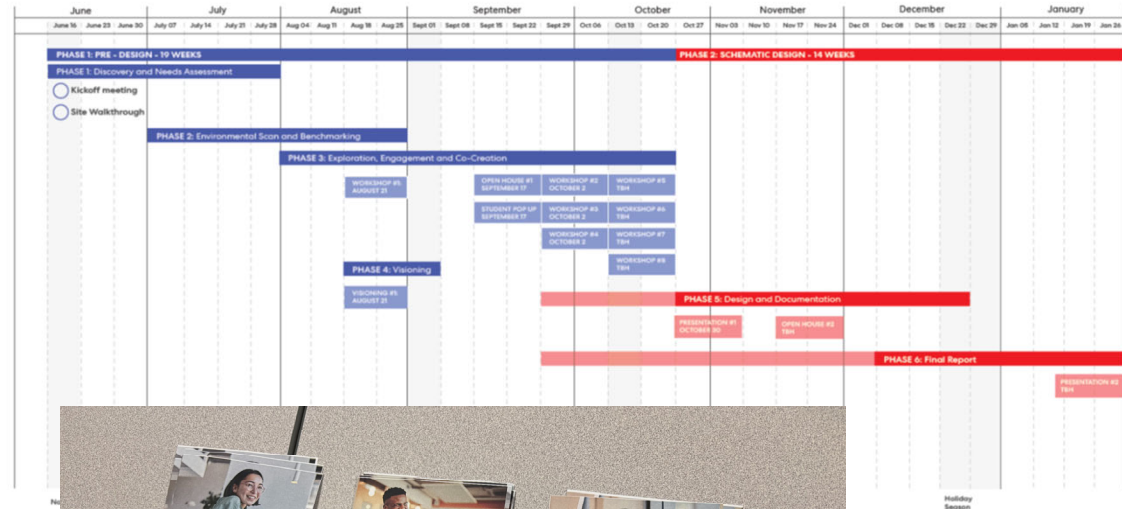
Establish user groups and decision-making processes.

Timeline & Commitments –

Secure participation with a clear schedule.

Invest in Planning –

Budget wisely; a well-funded plan reduces risk and ensures smoother capital projects.



Keeping it Alive and Active




Passionate Champion –
Ensure a strong leader
embodies and advocates
for the plan

Living Document – Treat
the plan as an advisor,
not a static report

Regular Check-ins –
Revisit often to track
progress and adjust
course

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Foster the Development of Library Research Skills, Knowledge, and Values



Goals

- Teach scholars to think critically about the value and limitations of information and data including the inherent biases that exist in the creation and dissemination of knowledge
- Advance and contribute to Western's teaching mission and innovative practices in partnership with the campus community
- Develop innovative pedagogies and instructional programming that challenges racist and colonial beliefs, systems and structures
- Expand outreach and support for diverse learner groups
- Advance faculty and student understanding of the research library including our expertise, collections, and facilities
- Contribute to the University's increased commitment to technology enhanced teaching and learning modalities

Outcomes

- Students will demonstrate the knowledge, skills and values outlined in Western Libraries new learning outcomes
- Faculty value and integrate the new Western Libraries learning outcomes into their curriculum
- Students and faculty use the services and resources available to support them in their teaching and learning
- Diverse communities are involved in and participate in curricular and co-curricular programming
- Students are aware of and pursue experiential learning and student research opportunities available through the Libraries

Measures of Success

- Satisfaction with instruction and reference services
- Number of instruction sessions aligned with the new curriculum
- Number of professional development sessions offered for faculty and graduate students
- Number of faculty members and graduate students engaged through professional development sessions

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Catalyze Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity



Goals

- Build and steward our diverse collections to enable discoveries that address the grand challenges of our time
- Advance the work of research partners throughout the research cycle
- Provide leadership in data management, statistical, and geospatial services
- Create and leverage digital environments to advance knowledge creation and dissemination
- Champion and enable a campus culture of open access for publishing, educational resources, and data

Outcomes

- Students, faculty, and researchers are able to find and access the tools, data, collections, and resources they need to support their scholarship, research, and creative activity
- Researchers have the knowledge and skills they need to advance their research goals
- Researchers value Western Libraries staff as contributing members of the research enterprise
- Researchers consider open access as a valued, sustainable option when engaging in research, scholarship, and teaching

Measures of Success

- Satisfaction with collections and research services
- Usage of physical and digital collections
- Percentage of new ebook acquisitions Digital Rights Management-free and usage of Digital Rights Management-free ebooks
- Number of items hosted in and downloads from Scholarship@Western, and number of open access journals hosted
- Number of research-focused events, programs, and workshops run by Western Libraries and with campus partners. Number of participants reached
- Implementation of campus Research Data Management (RDM) planning strategy
- Students, faculty, and researchers articulate how collections support their scholarship, research, and creative activity
- Students, faculty, and researchers articulate the value of Western Libraries for their research

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Fundraising Story– Pair the plan with advancement to make donors want to support the vision

Visual Storytelling – Keep “before and after” imagery at the forefront to keep transformative vision alive

Milestone for Renewal – Build moments to refresh and recommit during the life of the plan



Agile Presence – Create an energetic online presence and keep the plan active and alive

PROJECTS: the plug-and-play buffet

Projects are optional, order is flexible

NEW Entrepreneur Space

NEW Center for Digital
Scholarship

NEW Tech Commons

NEW Knowledge Gallery

Robbins

Open Tower and
3rd Floor Flex Space

Ground Floor A: New
Entrance and ISP

Gleason Renaissance
Includes consultation and instruction spaces

Art, Music, and Media
Library

Ground Floor B:
Stacks and WS&A

RBSC&P

*costs include 15% estimating allowance, exclude soft costs and any costs associated with enabling projects, phasing, or escalation

“Libraries don’t just adapt to the future – we design it”

Master space planning is about more than just floorplans; it’s about crafting identity, embedding values, and building spaces that future generations will thank us for

