
PARTNERING FOR STUDENT AND SCHOLAR SUCCESS

THE LEARNING COMMONS
AS PLATFORM FOR
LIBRARY/CAMPUS-WIDE
COLLABORATIONS

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LIBRARIES



PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- Institutional Snapshot
- Learning Commons Initiative
- Learning Commons Snapshot
- Co-Creation
- Partnership Model
- Collaborative Strategies
- Suggested Practices





THE LIBRARIES AT UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI (CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA)

- University Enrollment: 11,117 undergraduate, 6,214 graduate students
- University Employment: 16,174 full and part time faculty and staff
- UML System: 6 Libraries across three campuses (Interdisciplinary, Architecture, Business, Marine and Atmospheric Science, Medical, Music)
- UML Employment: 85 professionals (64 librarian faculty), 97 support staff and 56 FTE student employees
- UML Strategic Plan: 5-point model aligned with the University's "Roadmap to Our New Century," with the Learning Commons as part of the "Heart of Learning:"
 - *"Create new modes of support for teaching, learning, student achievement, and patient-centered care through innovative leadership, transformation of spaces, reinvention of services, and collaboration with relevant University programs."*



UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI LIBRARIES LEARNING COMMONS (EST. 2016)

Mission Statement

Offer opportunities to work individually and collaboratively, learn from peers and experts, discover and explore resources and ideas, and create and experiment. Provide an inviting, comfortable, and technology-rich environment.

Goals and Outcomes

- greater accessibility
- increased student engagement
- increased academic support partnerships
- library as center of learning



UML LEARNING COMMONS PARTNERSHIPS

Administrative Collaborators— Steering Committee

- University of Miami Libraries
- Office of Undergraduate Education
(Provost's Office)
- College of Arts and Sciences
- Academic Technologies
(Information Technology)
- University Architect and Space
Planning

Learning Commons Partners & Affiliates

- Access Services
- Camner Center for Academic
Resources
- Creative Studio
- Digital Scholars' Lab
- Math Lab
- Modern Languages Lab
- Office of Academic
Enhancement
- Research Services/Peer
Research Consultants
- Student Technology Help
Desk
- Technology Assistance
Program
- Toppel Career Center Peer
Advising (Affiliate)
- Writing Center



A SNAPSHOT OF THE UML LEARNING COMMONS: 2018–2019

- Almost 1 million visits to Richter Library: 80% students, 67% undergraduates
- More than 6,000 hours of academic support services offered by 11 Learning Commons Partners from University of Miami Libraries, College of Arts and Sciences, Undergraduate Education, and Academic Technologies
- Increases in consultations, course reserve loans, circulation of laptops, media equipment, general technology, and large and specialty format printing
- Over 100 workshops, trainings, and programs offered in the two Flexible Program Spaces by Learning Commons Partners and Affiliates

CO-CREATING THE LEARNING COMMONS

- Participatory design facilitated by brightspot strategy
- Outreach and deep engagement with relevant stakeholders (surveys, interviews, focus groups, multiday planning workshops)
- Key Stakeholders
 - Libraries
 - University Administration (Provost)
 - Academic Units providing tutoring & support
 - Academic Technologies (UMIT)
 - Students and Faculty
- Planning phase (1 yr.); Pilot phase (1.5 yrs.)

PARTNERSHIP MODEL OF THE LEARNING COMMONS

- Multiple Stakeholders, Shared Mission and Vision
- Flexibility within Collaboration
- Memoranda of Understanding
- Generous Timeline—phased and piloted approach

COLLABORATIVE STRATEGIES

Establishing Partnerships

- Steering Committee recommendations
 - What are institutional priorities?
- Relationships of mutual interest
 - Who on campus is providing academic/creative support?
- From assessment/feedback sources
 - What are students, faculty, staff saying they need?

COLLABORATIVE STRATEGIES

Maintaining Partnerships

- Regular Partner meetings
- Critical collaborative projects (orientations, retreats)
- Outreach to Partners individually
- Assessment/feedback channels

COLLABORATIVE STRATEGIES

Connecting Students & Scholars with Services

- Physical
 - Flexible and inviting workspaces for groups and individuals
- Virtual
 - Digital platforms (website, applications that offer two-way communication like Zoom, Skype, WCOonline)
- Communication
 - Multifaceted approach (paper and digital)
- Curricular outreach
 - Relationships with faculty and staff connected to courses



BEST PRACTICES FOR LIBRARY/CAMPUS-WIDE COLLABORATION

- Start with **principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion**, which will always yield the greatest benefits in terms of collaboration with partners, both library and college/university wide
- Collaborate in order to **build relationships** that support scholarship and creativity, advancing the mission and goals of the institution
- Make **outreach a priority**—library and learning commons employees should be actively engaged across the campus with the many stakeholders that need and provide academic and creative support
- Give yourself **time**—relationships and culture change need these to grow and flourish

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