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Revamping Bissell Library: refurbishing spaces to satisfy students' needs

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The Philosophy

Revamping Bissell Library: refurbishing spaces to satisfy students' needs

Colleges and universities are examining their physical spaces to meet their users' information seeking needs.

Two years ago the Bissell Library began the refurbishment of its physical spaces in order to transform them into more interactive learning areas and adjust the kind of services offered to adapt to the students' changing needs. The qualitative feedback received by users was taken into account for the revamping of spaces.

The former "Magazines Area" was transformed into a "Social Zone" at which users can read, socialize, watch the news on a TV screen and even eat or sleep. Technical equipment and new wooden panels were bought in order to be used for hosting smaller and more informal presentations or events. Moreover, a specific area of the upper floor was isolated to become a "Quiet Study Zone". The addition of TV screens in three study rooms was also part of the refurbishment. The purchase of new conference chairs, a big screen

and two big banners on each side of the stage were part of the redesign plan to host bigger and more formal events in the events space. Images of the areas before and after will be displayed and the users' survey shared

Summary: As the digital environment continues to affect almost all aspects of our lives, academic libraries need to adapt accordingly and revamp their physical spaces to ensure that the services offered remain relevant to the students' needs. Images of the areas before and after the refurbishment and the findings of the users' survey will be shared.



Challenges and Needs

Challenges

- Separation of the library's undifferentiated space into separate zones (Social Zone, Group Study Zone, Quiet Room Zone)
- Hosting of educational and cultural events
- Feedback received by students

Needs

- To provide a friendlier and more inviting environment for our patrons
- To accommodate the changing learning needs of students, faculty, staff, community members
- To add three new subject categories in our books collection (Wellbeing Collection, Library Staff Development Collection, Study Skills Collection)



New Designated Zones

1

Social Zone

Allows the students to work and socialize while enjoying their coffee. It also gives us the option of hosting small workshops, painting exhibitions or even departmental meetings

2

Group Study Zone

The presence of reading tables in one area allows groups of students to collaborate and work together on assignments and projects

3

Quiet Study Area

The purchase and installation of a glass wall isolated the specific area allowing privacy and quiet study without disturbance

4

Events Area

Refurbishment of the events space with a stage, a podium, side banners, an audio unit and new conference chairs, all of which allow for the hosting of bigger and more formal events, conferences and workshops

5

Archives room

The former magazines room is now used as the Archives Room housing a collection of invaluable documents and photos relating to the long history of Anatolia College

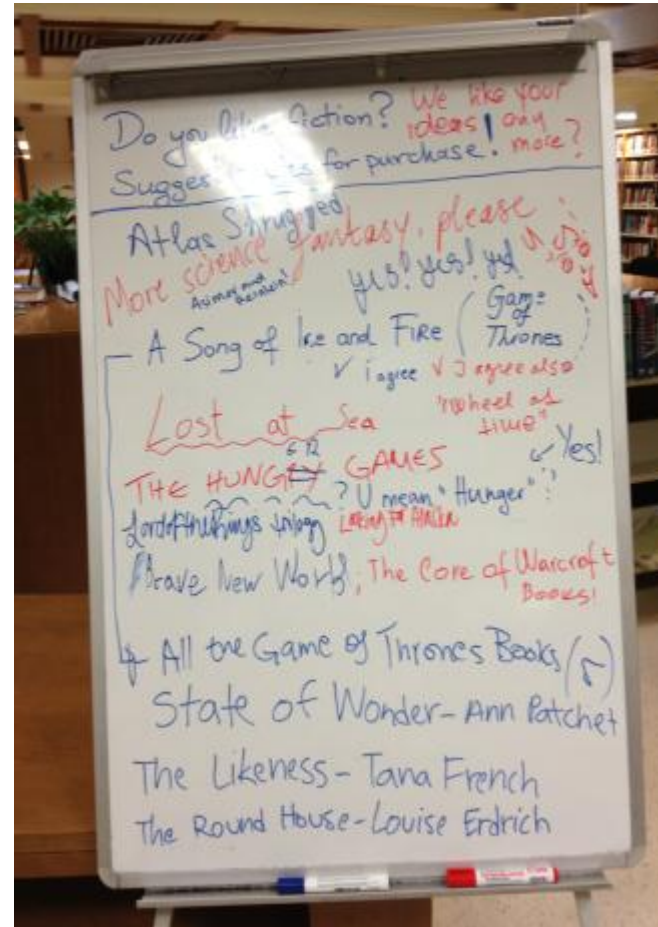
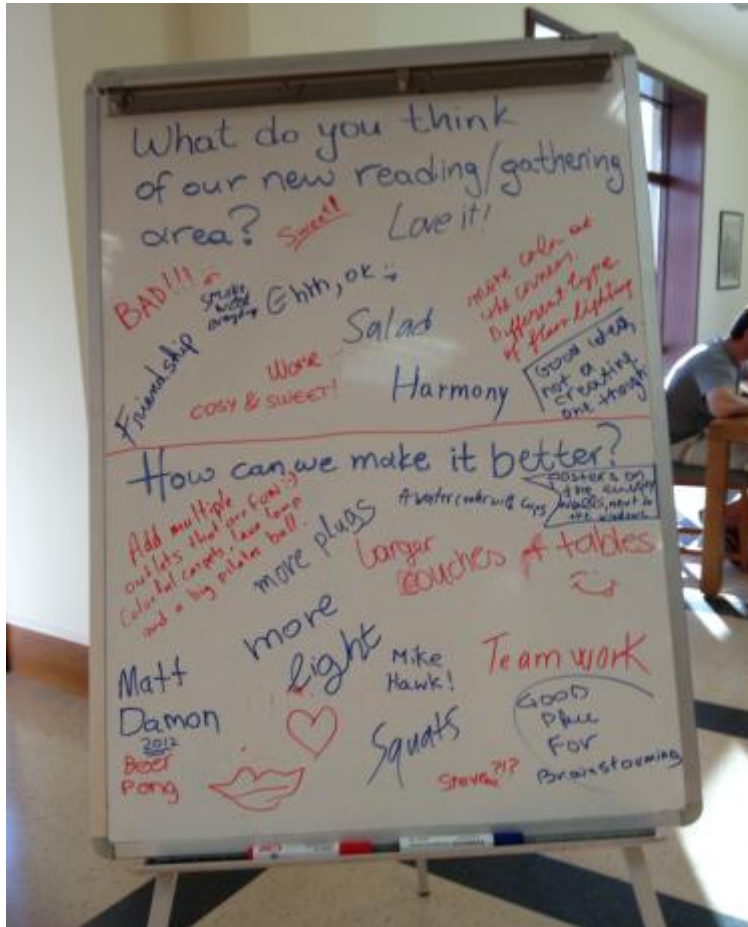
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Exterior Area: Garden

The purchase of new wooden benches has transformed the outside space into a more student friendly environment

Involving the Student Body

We identified the priorities based on feedback received from students



Action:

The Fiction Collection was enriched with many recent awarded titles

The feedback received included the wish for a distinct reading area, which inspired us to create the "Quiet Study Zone"

Magazine area turned into a “Social Zone”

Before



Metamorphosis

After



The same space is now also used for hosting exhibitions. A TV screen plays the BBC World Service News



A vending machine for coffee and the new “Wellbeing” book collection



Social Zone use for multiple purposes

More photos





Group Study Zone



Quiet Study Zone

Due to our hosting of many events there was a need to separate a space for quiet study.
The installation of a sound-proof glass wall allows privacy and quiet study.

Before



After



Event Space

The space as it previously existed did not allow for the hosting of big conferences and other events/lectures

Before



The area was originally designed as a study space. Therefore, there was a lack of conference chairs, a stage, podium, screen, projector, sound unit. The organizing and hosting of conferences was previously difficult.

Event Space

After



AMICAL 2017 Conference opening

Archives

The Magazine Room has been transformed into an
Archives Room

Before



After



Exterior Area

We thought that not only the interior needed transforming but also the outside area in order to provide better services and accommodate the study habits of our students





Funding

Funding and consultation were an integral part of the project

- The organizing and hosting of the 2017 AMICAL conference was a good incentive
- Consultation with architects, graphic designers, carpenters, furniture and construction vendors proved essential
- Approval of budgets and designs by senior management



Expanded services

- Bissell Library Events
- Coffee
- New Book Collections
Wellbeing Collection, Librarians' Collection, Study Skills Collection
- Enrichment of Fiction Collection
- New Magazine/Newspaper titles



Marketing the new spaces and services

- Verbally at the Library Hub
- Via Bissell Library Events
- On Facebook page
- Posters



Take a look!

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LOVE MAGAZINES?

READ THEM ONLINE ON YOUR DEVICE

SCAN QR CODE FOR A LIST OF THE MOST POPULAR TITLES

NEWS & GENERAL INTEREST



BUSINESS



BORROW A LAPTOP

Books are only the beginning...



Request at the Library Hub

with your ID card
(in Library use only!)

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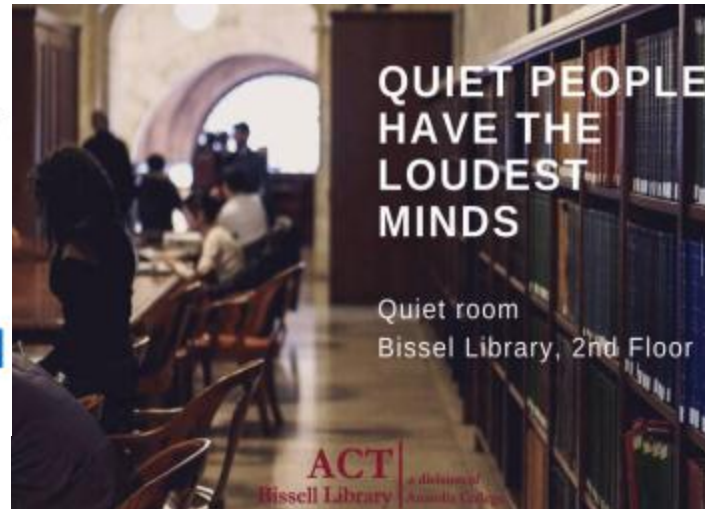


Learning Hub



QUIET PEOPLE HAVE THE LOUDEST MINDS

Quiet room
Bissell Library, 2nd Floor



BISSELL LIBRARY

You can charge your devices
in the library



Charging cables for
mobile phones
and more...

Ask at the Library Hub for

USB to USB, micro USB and USB power Adapter

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BORROW HEADPHONES



Request at the Library Hub

with your ID card
(in Library use only!)

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BISSELL LIBRARY
<http://library.act.edu>

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New Well-Being Books

WHEN EVERYTHING CHANGES CHANGE EVERYTHING Nesrine Dossaki Walsch	Begetting the Habit of Being Yourself Dr. Joe Dispenza	THE HAPPINESS HYPOTHESIS JONATHAN HART
59 SECONDS Think a little, change a lot RICHARD WISEMAN	BIG MAGIC CREATIVE LIVING BEYOND FEAR ELIZABETH GILBERT	TIME TO THINK LEARNED TO QUOTE THE HUMANOID NANCY KLINE
HAPPIER THE ONE THING YOU CAN DO TO BE HAPPY TED DICKERSON	THE NOW HABIT THE POWER OF PRESENT MOMENTS NEIL FURBER, PH.D.	A NEW EARTH CREATE A BETTER LIFE ECKHART TOLLE

BISSELL LIBRARY
<http://library.act.edu>

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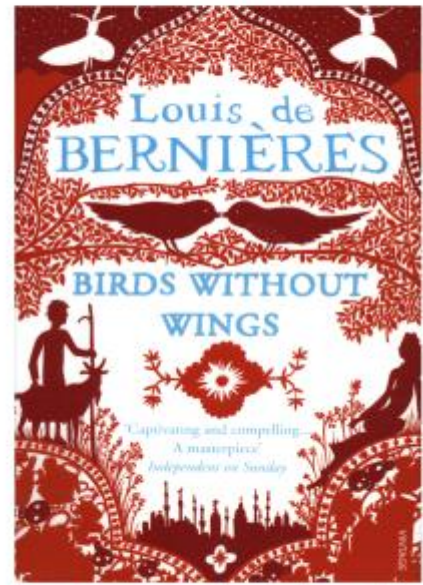
New Study Skills Books

PALGRAVE STUDY SKILLS HOW TO WRITE BETTER ESSAYS BRYAN GREYTHORN	PALGRAVE STUDY SKILLS HOW TO USE YOUR READING IN YOUR ESSAYS JEANNE GODFREY	THE EXAM SKILLS HANDBOOK STELLA COTTRELL
STUDY SKILLS CONNECTED STELLA COTTRELL & NEIL MORRIS	PALGRAVE STUDY SKILLS DISSERTATIONS AND PROJECT REPORTS A STEP BY STEP GUIDE STELLA COTTRELL	SKILLS FOR SUCCESS PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYABILITY STELLA COTTRELL
PALGRAVE STUDY SKILLS THE STUDY SKILLS HANDBOOK STELLA COTTRELL	THE STUDENT'S GUIDE TO WRITING JOHN PECK & MARTIN COYLE	CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS STELLA COTTRELL

BISSELL LIBRARY

Book Club

Join us and discover
Thessaloniki



**Borrow your book from the
Information Hub**

The discussion led by Dr. Kyriakidou will take place at
the Bissell Library on 29th of November, 13.00 - 14.00



Lessons learned

- **Ongoing project**

Continuous development of the spaces as well as the services provided is recommended in order to accommodate the new ways in which students study and learn

- **It takes a hundred steps**

<https://acrl.libguides.com/buildingresources/librarybuildingdesign>

Thank you!

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