

2012 Renovations at the Library of the Health Sciences-Urbana

By Mary Shultz

The Library of the Health Sciences-Urbana was fortunate to receive Library/IT funding to support a remodeling project on our first floor. The construction started in February and was completed in July. Below are some before and after photographs showing the dramatic changes to our space.

BEFORE



The photo to the left shows the northwest corner of the first floor. Prior to renovations this had been used to shelve our current periodical collection and for study space.

Reading Room – AFTER

Comments from students over the years pointed to the need to brighten up the Library with more natural light and create more comfortable and functional places to study. We had windows installed to create a brighter space. This area has new, comfy seating and wonderful views.

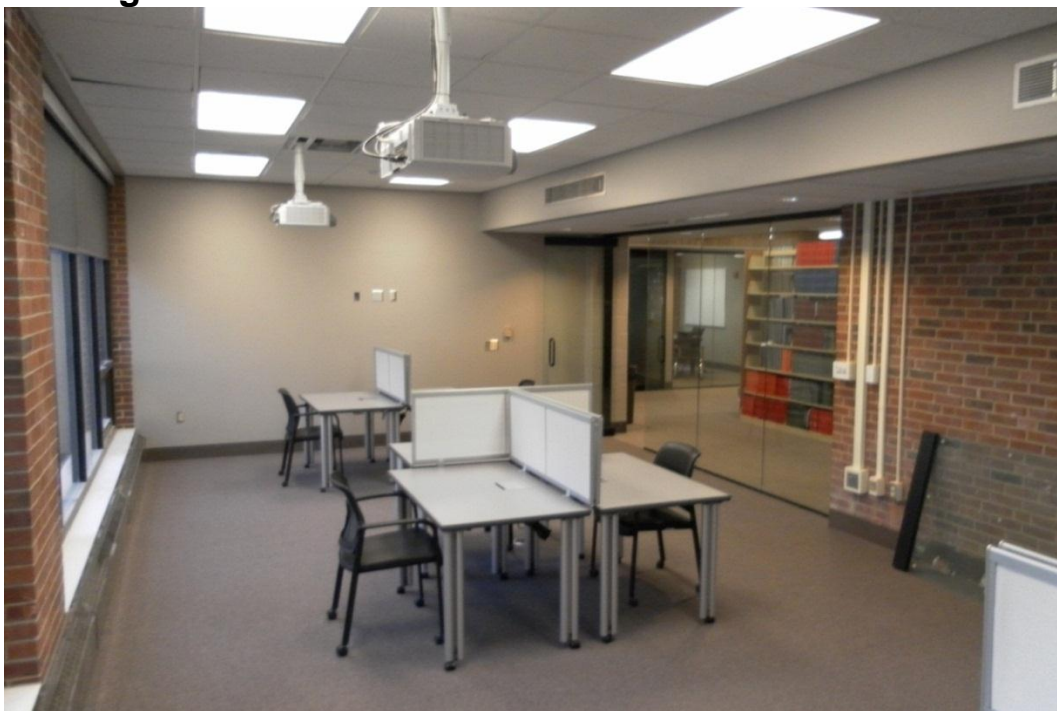


Study Carrel Area - BEFORE



The following photo shows the new multifunctional space, named The Big Room, which has replaced our study carrel area (pictured above). This space allows for individual study, meetings, and library instruction. The tables can be configured as a large conference table, in a U-shape, or in a study carrel configuration. The screens between the tables are easily removed when necessary. The room has a dual projection system with two screens for instruction purposes.

The Big Room – AFTER



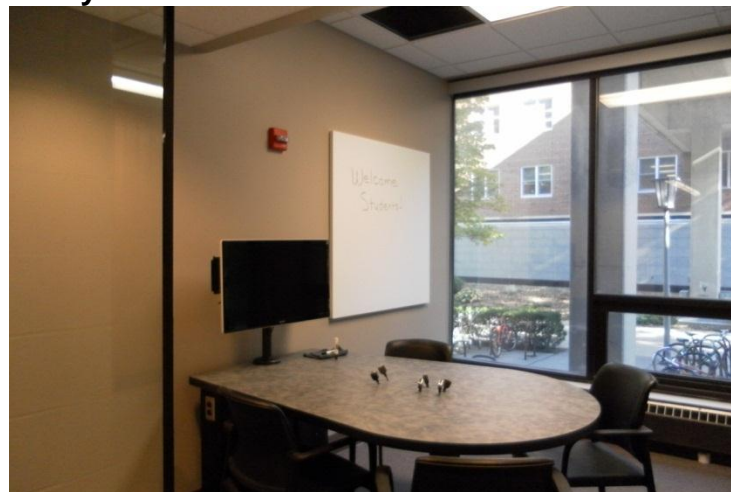
BEFORE



The picture to the left shows another view of our former Current Periodicals Section which was used for study as well as shelving of current journals. As our collection is now almost entirely online, we no longer needed the shelf space and were able to convert this area to four group study rooms.

Study Rooms – AFTER

The two photos to the right show the two styles of study rooms we created. The first picture shows a collaboration table. Up to six students can connect their laptops and then toggle to display their individual computer screens on the larger flat screen. All the rooms also have large white boards available.



The second photo shows a different type of table and a plasma screen on the wall as well as a large white board.

Study Rooms – AFTER



I'm so thankful for the Library/IT fee paid by UIC students which funded this project, and to the UIC Library for their approval and support of the changes. I hope the medical and nursing students find the remodeled space suitable for study and for group projects.

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