

Why Are We Moving Towards a Learning Commons Model?

"Whereas the focus of the library program in the past was on building strong collections of resources and assisting users to find and use them effectively, the goal now is to build learning communities and make connections among learners, thus facilitating knowledge creation in the school community."

BC Redesigned Curriculum

"The world is changing- and we have to change too. Technology and innovation are reshaping society- and the future. That is why it's critical we refine our education system, designed in the last century, so students can succeed in the 21st Century."

(British Columbia Ministry of Education, 2015)

What is a Library Learning Commons?

- A place where learning, resources, and possibilities are not limited by the books on the shelf.
- A place where students can access experts in information and digital literacy and where students can learn how to become ethical global citizens.
- A place that can easily be transformed for multiple different uses. From individual pursuits, to small group, whole class activities, or whatever the need.
- A place where access to technology becomes more equal between students.
- A place where technology enables students to deepen their learning and share their learning with a global audience.

What should be the different areas of a Library Learning Commons?

"Integration of areas of learning and technology... have opened the door for teachers and schools to approach the use of time and space in creative ways – ways that adapt to the students' needs and interests. "

Flexibility and Ownership

--User-centered, multi-functional space with light and movable tables, chairs, and shelving

--Fixed shelving goes against walls

Collaboration Space/Large Scale Presentation

- Students learn from each other
- Areas for collaborating with a partner or small group
- Easily moveable tables and chairs for collaboration
- White boards, supplies, collaborative technology
- Flexible space for whole class instruction that can be used for larger groups and presentations
- Space for students to share their learning
- Technology in place to support presentations such as projector, laptop, screen, and audio
- Extra chairs available nearby

Quiet Solitary Spaces

- Students need quiet spaces to read, work, and be on their own
- Quiet spaces can be a challenge in an active LLC so planning for those spaces is essential
- Quiet room, quiet zones, or quiet hideaways
- Infrastructure to support quickly changing technology

Technology Spaces

- Charging hubs, sufficient outlets, fast wifi, leave your device charging station behind the checkout desk
- Audio visual space – green screen
- Space to work on devices such as high tables with stools

Makerspaces

- Provide students with a space to create, invent, and learn
- Dedicated room or area for making
- Supplies for making such as cardboard, markers, glue, Lego blocks, 3-D printer, and more

Library Learning Commons Technology

Technology should directly support:

- Creativity
- Leadership
- Inquiry
- Digital storytelling
- Digital citizenship
- Digital portfolios
- The flipped classroom
- Makerspaces
- User-generated content