Library Ambassadors: Cornell's research connection.

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Abstract

Cornell University’s College of Engineering opened a state of the art nanotechnology research building at the end of 2004. Although the building was designed with no library, we were invited to conceptualize and provide a library presence in the beautiful atrium of the building, an area that has fast become the Commons of the College, where researchers and students meet and study 24/7.

The result is the Research Connection, a library outreach effort that is designed to spread the word about what libraries and librarians do. Rather than a satellite reference location, the Research Connection is a proactive way to communicate with students and researchers who otherwise might not come to the library. The paper will discuss what it took to train librarians for this unusually proactive role, as well as changes in our on-site service model that was needed in order to staff the Research Connection.

activity enabled by the Internet.