Reconfigure and Renovate: Renewal through redesign for relevance in research and learning - a case study.

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Abstract:

The award-winning University of Queensland Library has reconfigured and renovated all its library buildings through successful partnerships with architects, interior designers, graphic designers, landscape architects, IT professionals and the University administration to ensure that all library spaces are relevant to the current learning and research environments as well as to those of the future.

The Library’s buildings reflect its aims to facilitate excellence in teaching, to create an appropriate learning and research environment, to anticipate and respond to student learning and research needs, to contribute to positive graduate outcomes and to provide the information infrastructure necessary for leading edge teaching, learning and research activities.

The Library’s thoughtful designs flow through to its many services and facilities that use smart technology infrastructure to strike an optimum equilibrium in the shift from print to an increasingly electronic environment; providing a balance between people spaces and study spaces; supporting different teaching and learning modes by offering varied study and learning places and collaborating in programs and services that are directly tied in with faculty teaching and research curriculum which support the mission of the University.

The University of Queensland has recognised the importance of the Library’s key role in embedding the learning and research activities within the University’s activities. This has resulted in an investment of over $40 million dollars to the Library over the last ten years for the reconfiguration and renovation of all its existing library buildings and the building of new libraries which feature prominently in a wide range of the University’s marketing activities.

This paper outlines the various strategies effectively employed by the University of Queensland Library that has made it one of the most dynamic learning and research centres in the University. The Library constantly ensures that its customer-focused services and well-designed spaces are aligned to the University’s strategic aims, aspirations and commitments to create a community dedicated to achieving national and international levels of excellence in teaching, research and scholarship.