CEMLA IX Meeting of Central Bank Librarians

Transformation of the Central Bank of The Bahamas Library:

Current and Future Trends Regarding the Physical Space in the Library

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History

- The Central Bank of The Bahamas was established on 1st June 1974, to carry out the independent monetary policy and financial sector supervisory functions entrusted upon The Bahamas after political independence from Great Britain in 1973.

Organization

- The organization of the Bank has evolved over the years, in line with changes in operational priorities and external demands placed on the institution. To a large extent, many of the early changes involved the elevation of sub-departmental operations into full departments.
- The Bank's functions are carried out under four main sections and Departments, namely:

  - Banking
  - Bank Supervision
  - Exchange Control
  - Research

Library Unit

- The library began in 1975, as a small resource centre with a few publications dedicated specifically for the use of the Research Department. As such the Library was a unit within the Research Department.

- Over the years the library developed into a key institutional unit – providing the Bank, and the wider financial community, with information on the banking, financial and public sectors and the economy at large.

Library Unit continued…

- The collection is the oldest, most comprehensive, specialized collection of banking and finance material on the Bahamian economy - comprising text and reference material, such as reports, magazines, journals, documents and speeches.

- Consistent with the growing need of greater accessibility, the Bank transformed the Library into an online information centre, connecting its users via technology.

- The library has an OPAC accessible within the library that allows users to search the library catalog, and it also has several databases that can be accessed both internally and externally providing our users with access to information in a timely manner.

Transformation of the CBOB Library

Within the last several years, the Central Bank of The Bahamas went through an organizational change:

- These changes entailed restructuring and amalgamation of several units
- These organizational changes were in part made due to a Job Evaluation Process that was undertaken approximately two years ago
- The Library Unit and the Records Department were identified to merge to become one unit with responsibility for Information Management

Library Unit + Records Department = Information Management

Transformation continued…

What is Information Management?

- **Information management** (**IM**) concerns a cycle of organizational activity: the acquisition of information from one or more sources, the custodianship and the distribution of that information to those who need it, and its ultimate disposition through archiving or deletion.

Transformation continued…

Scope of the Library Unit

- **The library has responsibility for management of:**

❖ Acquisition, cataloging of material, weeding of material and dissemination and access to information resources to internal and external users
❖ Library services
❖ CBOB intranet
❖ CBOB Website administration
❖ Mandarin Integrated Library System
❖ EBSCO Databases
❖ PolicyHub
❖ Alliance for Financial Inclusion Data Portal Administrator
❖ IMF e-GDDS Administrator

Trends in Remapping the Physical Space

- As libraries transform either intentionally or unintentionally a pattern has developed regarding its physical footprint that aims to create a more flexible collaborative space. Here are six ways that we can start to remap our space:

1. **Removing Obstacles and Clutter**
   - Cluttered shelves
   - Massive floor shelving
   - Lots of extra furniture and odds and ends in the library space

2. **Adding Colour**
   - Libraries typically have grey or dull colors in their spaces
   - Changing the color scheme can brighten small, cramped spaces
   - Scientific studies conducted show that **color** influences emotions, productivity and learning

Continued…

3. Movement and Flexibility

- Heavy wooden tables and chairs are not flexible enough for library spaces
- Replacing outdated furniture with more ergonomic, flexible options, allows for greater movement within our space

4. Variety of seating

- Importance of having a variety of seating options. High. Low. Hard. Soft.
- Comfortable soft chairs in the lounge area
- Rocking chairs that allow for movement
- Standard chairs that provide seating for all patrons

5. Interactive Spaces

- Libraries should not be static places
- Offices of innovative companies (Google, Facebook, etc.) there are interactive spaces for employees to relax, collaborate and have fun
- Add a Whiteboard for collaboration and brainstorming

6. More Power!

- In BYOD libraries, it is challenging to find power outlets
- Often, they are hidden either under or behind shelving
- By opening the library space and removing excess shelving, patrons can access previously hidden power outlets in the library

LIBRARIANRESOURCES
Taylor & Francis supporting librarians

Taylor & Francis Group
an informa business

What makes a successful informal learning space?

Exploring Learners' Informal Learning Space Behaviors, Attitudes, and Preferences

A STUDY BY
Deborah Harrop
& Bea Turpin,
Sheffield Hallam University

What was found?

DESTINATION
Where learners go to study

- On campus spaces designed for informal learning are popular
- Habit plays a part in selection of spaces, including specific seat preferences
- Proximity to formal learning session is important

"I'm a creature of habit"

IDENTITY
The ethos of the space and how it should be used

- Range of atmosphere preferences from "studious, relaxed & informal" to those typified by "buzz & activity"
- Layout of space more important than designation (e.g. signage)
- Important that spaces live up to their expectations, particularly quiet & silent study areas

RETREAT
Privacy & quiet study

"My own little space, no distractions"

- Importance placed on spaces available with no distractions & where others cannot see learners' work
- Home offered privacy, and associated with being cozy, comfortable & being able to sit how you like
- Not all learners choosing to work individually wish to be in a quiet environment

RESOURCES
Access to technology

- Access to all forms of modern technology is important
- Plentiful and visible electrical sockets encourage & validate learners' use of personal technologies to support learning
- Books, journals & e-journals all valued resources used alongside technology

COMMUNITY
Social interactions, support and sense of common purpose

- Social interaction is important for study & relaxation
- Preferences expressed for working in close proximity to friends & peers to create a sense of community for co-support and breaks
- Planned & unplanned serendipitous meetings
- A shared learning environment is motivational

"I came in to revise, my friends were already here so I joined them"

CONVERSATIONS
Collaboration and interpersonal communication

- Learning centres often first choice for group work – viewed as neutral territory and familiar to all
- Important learners have the opportunity to talk, share ideas, discuss & debate
- Learning spaces should support interpersonal communication from both learning & social perspectives

TIMELY
Just in time and on demand access to spaces & their resources

- Spaces often used for quick tasks before and between other activities as well as for longer periods of study
- Long opening hours important with 24-hour access considered essential to some learners
- Flexible booking systems essential to support planned or last minute requests
- Preference for not having to leave building for refreshments

"I don't have time to walk all the way across campus"

ERGONOMICS
Work spaces & physical attributes

- Large personal work spaces a common preference, with larger tables & space to spread out personal belongings and refreshments
- Mixed preference on seating - from relaxed and comfortable to formal
- Sound levels can be a source of frustration
- Easy access to food & drink creates a homelier environment

Going forward...

There is an almost limitless combination of learning space preferences. And so going forward, librarians need to consider:

- Developing a portfolio of interrelated campus spaces which offer a coherent whole
- Delivering a coherent, but diverse range of spaces at building, floor and area level
- Creating a versatile space which encourages learners to reflect on their learning preferences and translate these preferences into space selection

Product information, support, news & insights for Librarians
@librarylantern librarianresources.taylorandfrancis.com

Read the full article at
www.tandfonline.com

Our Changing Space

- Reduction in the physical space of the library
  - ❖ All of our physical resources have been placed in storage and will be recalled as needed; therefore emphasis will be on digital resources
- Emphasis on being sustainable:
  - ❖ Reduction of our paper based subscriptions
  - ❖ Newspaper subscriptions and acquisition of books
- Traditional vs Innovative
  - ❖ Rethink how we connect with our users

Transformation continued…

- Reference services using:
  - Telephone
  - Email
  - Intranet

- Technology/Digital Resources
  - Ask-a-librarian Chat feature available on our website
  - Collection development focusing on
    - E-books
    - Subscription services for databases and publications that were previously purchased in print form
  - Building out our library page so that users can access our information resources
    - Digital archive of historical reports and publications
  - Building relationships with libraries within our network to facilitate inter library loans
  - Selecting applications that provide access to our information resources

What does this mean?

- The changing needs of scholars and researchers in today's environment means that libraries must be flexible and forward thinking to be able to adapt to meet those challenges.

- The growing need for rich and comprehensive resources online coupled with new learning and research space has brought libraries into a reality where creativity with both restricted spacing and restricted budgets are paramount.

- We must recognize the effect of space on the experience of the user; and learn how we can make our space less mysterious and more welcoming to users.

- We can do this by creating a flexible and collaborative work environment, increasing the amount of workspace, and preserving the site's historic character while meeting user needs.

The end….

Thank you!

Questions?