Managing a Library Renovation Project: A Team Approach

Mary E. Piorun  
*University of Massachusetts Medical School, mary.piorun@umassmed.edu*

Deanna Lucia  
deanna.lucia@umassmed.edu

Follow this and additional works at: [http://escholarship.umassmed.edu/lib_postpres](http://escholarship.umassmed.edu/lib_postpres)

Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](http://escholarship.umassmed.edu/lib_postpres)

Repository Citation

[http://escholarship.umassmed.edu/lib_postpres/8](http://escholarship.umassmed.edu/lib_postpres/8)

This material is brought to you by eScholarship@UMMS. It has been accepted for inclusion in Posters and Presentations by an authorized administrator of eScholarship@UMMS. For more information, please contact Lisa.Palmer@umassmed.edu.
Managing a Library Renovation Project: A Team Approach
The Lamar Soutter Library, University of Massachusetts Medical School

Overview
By the mid-nineties The Lamar Soutter Library was in desperate need of beautification and updating to accommodate the current advances in technology. In 1998, the first team was formed to look at the condition of the Library and recommend both short and long term improvements. Four years and five teams later, the Library has undergone a complete renovation with new furniture, paint, carpet, computer instruction area, audiovisual viewing room, and an improved layout that better serves the electronic access needs of Library patrons and creates a better working environment for Library staff.

Facts and Figures
The Lamar Soutter Library is a mid-size academic health science library that houses 280,000 volumes. The Library occupies 41,000 square feet within the medical school and employs 52 full time employees. The renovated Library has 115 public access workstations and a wireless network with 25 laptops available for checkout. There are two public service points in the Library, a Circulation Desk and a Reference Desk which accommodate approximately 400,000 visitors a year. The Library has been using a team-based approach to operational problem solving since 1998.

Medical Library Association
Annual Meeting 2003, San Diego, CA
Deanna Lucia, MLS,IS and Mary Pionrun, MLS, AHIP

Team
A group of people collaborating in their professional work, or in some enterprise or assignment to achieve a common goal or outcome.

- Facilities Team 1998 - 1999
  Identified facility issues for remodel. Composed of Library Staff

- Space Study Team 1999 - 2000
  Evaluated options for Library growth and modernization. Composed of School Administration

- Remodel Planning Team 2000-2001
  Designed new layout and aesthetics. Composed of architects, Library staff and facilities

- Remodel Implementation Team 2001-2002
  Executed plan for Library’s new design. Composed of Library staff, facilities

- Remodel Follow Up Team 2002-2003
  Identify unresolved issues and determine solutions. Composed of Library Staff

Conclusion
The renovation improved the Library’s physical space by providing patrons with more seating options, better lighting and increased accessibility to the Library’s collection and resources. The renovation provided staff with work areas that are centralized by department and a more open work environment that is conducive to collaboration.

The renovation was also successful because the team-based approach to its management made faculty, staff and students feel like they were included in the decision making process throughout the project. Having staff members from every department involved in all of the various teams allowed each department’s specific needs to be considered during each step of the project. Involving Library staff in the decision making process resulted in staff buy-in to the project and has given staff a sense of ownership for the “new” Library. This sense of ownership is reflected in the new sense of pride in the Library and interest in its upkeep shown by all faculty staff and students.