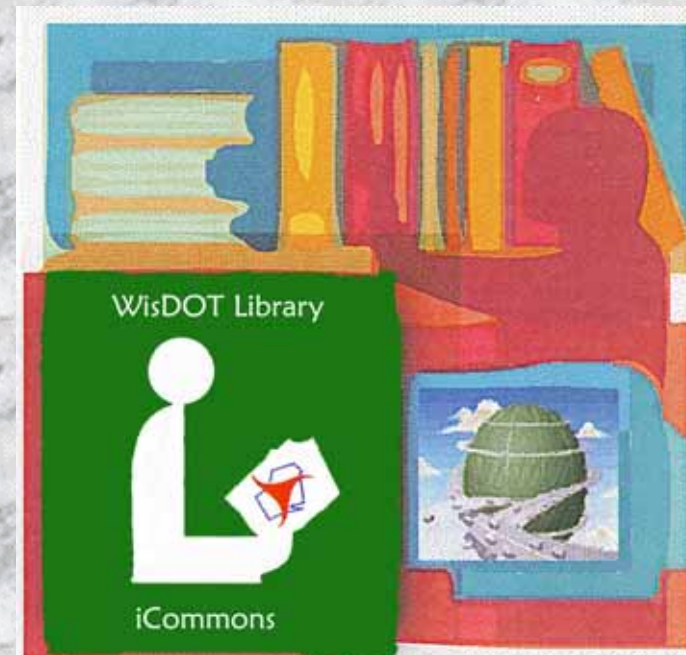




# WisDOT iCommons:

## Creating User-Friendly Spaces on a Budget





Transportation Librarians Roundtable  
November 8, 2007  
John Cherney,  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation



# Why an iCommons at WisDOT?

## Reorganization as a catalyst

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-  Department-wide reorganization
-  New section: RCSS (Research and Communication Services Section)
-  Library – physical front piece of new section
-  Feature highlights of new section, impetus to begin thought on user-friendly spaces

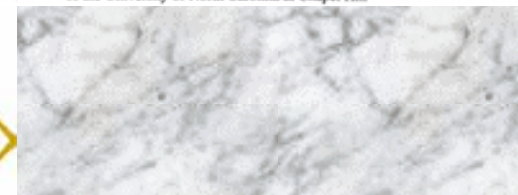
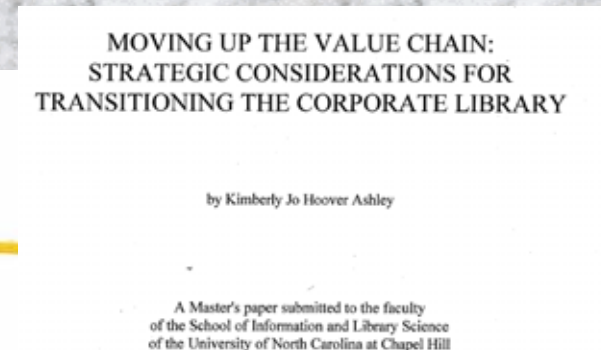
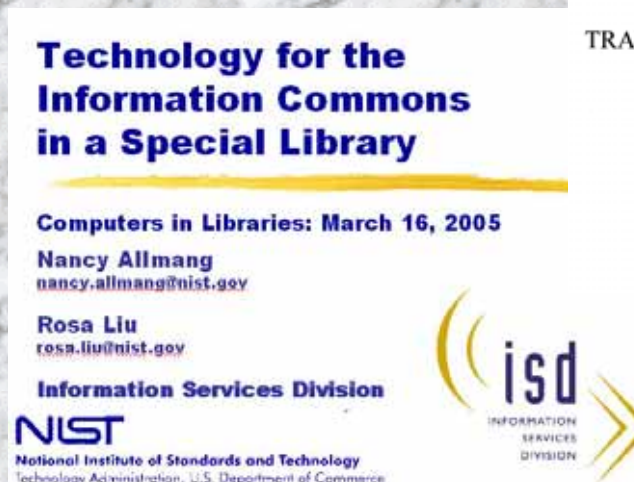
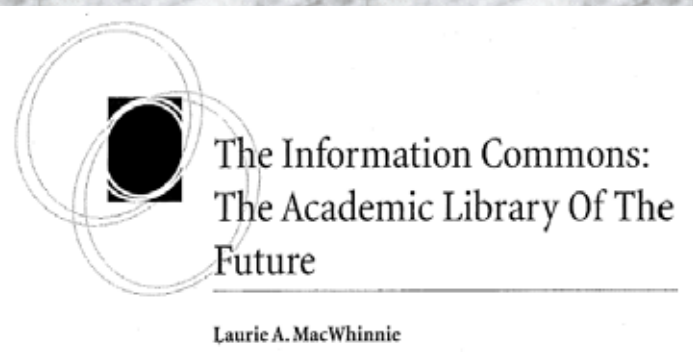




# Conceptualizing the WisDOT iCommons: Literature Review



- Our task: find sources related to how a physical setting facilitates knowledge transfer
- Literature review – library science, computer science and academic literature
- Look for real world examples of other iCommons efforts, particularly in a special library
- The case for space






# Conceptualizing the WisDOT iCommons: Supporting Internal Documents



- 🏛️ Instead of 'Nice to Necessary' – 'Nice AND Necessary'
- 🏛️ Created documentation to support our contentions – a business case and a presentation on our local on-site research




**The Information Commons at  
WisDOT:  
Facilitating Knowledge Transfer to Meet  
Business Needs**

Chuck McClure, consultant and John Cherney, WisDOT Librarian

November 2005

## Special Libraries Library Survey : Space & Design



**The WisDOT Library's  
Visual Presentation of a  
sampling of Madison, WI  
Special Libraries:**


- ◆ University of Wisconsin - Madison  
Ebling Library
- ◆ Energy Center of Wisconsin Library
- ◆ Legislative Reference Bureau Library
- ◆ Wisconsin State Law Library
- ◆ Dane County Legal Resource Center


2005 by JonAnne Hobbs & John Cherney



# Conceptualizing the WisDOT iCommons: A New Location



 Old library space, quickly becoming inadequate with donations from reorganization and retirements

 Management buy-in of our concept : new lobby location for iCommons and creation of North Stacks



Circulation area – old library



New location – before iCommons



# Planning the WisDOT iCommons: Establishing Parameters



- 🏛️ Budget, building and IT constraints: what were the specifics?
- 🏛️ Identify items from old library we wanted to keep
- 🏛️ Moving the library





# Planning the WisDOT iCommons: Establishing Parameters – IT issues




- 🏛️ IT constraints – firewall – security concerns
- 🏛️ Internet Access area – need Static IP and local logon – continue with these protocols
- 🏛️ Wireless connectivity and related programs, not possible
- 🏛️ Increase number of enabled data jacks in iCommons and North Stacks
- 🏛️ IT surplus – source of inexpensive equipment





# Planning the WisDOT iCommons: Establishing Parameters – IT (con't)



 With simple workstation furniture and flat panel monitors, Internet Access area became more user-friendly.

 Occupies 121 sq. ft.



Old Internet Access area






New Internet Access area






# Planning the WisDOT iCommons: Getting to know our Facilities staff



-  Worked closely with our Facilities staff
-  Two-way education process
-  Library staff included during ALL stages of iCommons planning



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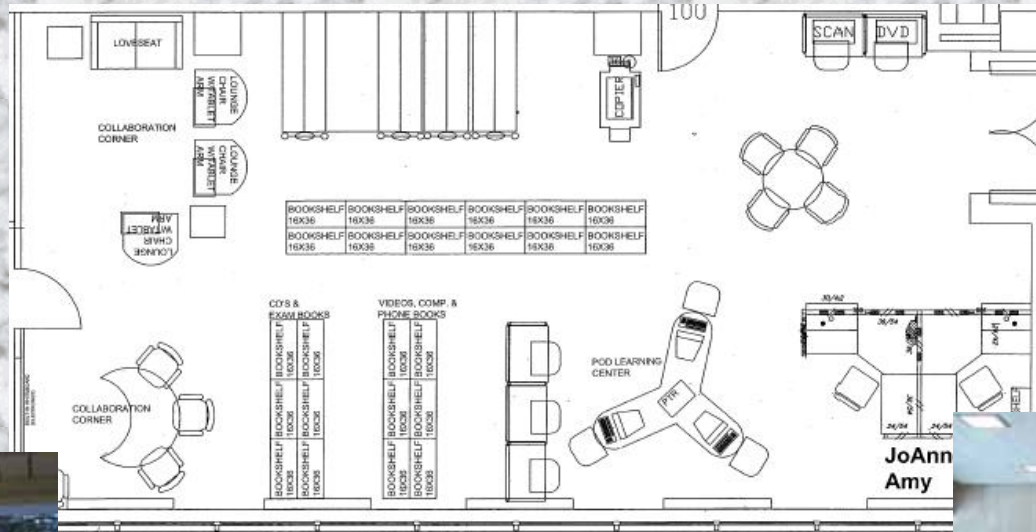
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# Planning the WisDOT iCommons: Working with Facilities Staff



- Concept illustrations for management and facilities
- With library staff input, floor plans were changed often



Concept – circulation desk



Concept – lobby entrance



# Planning the WisDOT iCommons: Establishing Parameters – Building Issues



- 🏛️ Needed to design user-friendly spaces in areas where electrical boxes/data jacks existed (beneath the floor)
- 🏛️ Had to meet or exceed ADA code to make spaces more user-friendly for everyone
- 🏛️ Facilities warehouse – source for furniture and more
- 🏛️ Facilities connections with other state agencies




Recycled shelving in North Stacks  
(from WI Dept. of Revenue)




# Designing the WisDOT iCommons: Facilities Vision



 Comfortable, inviting place for patrons

 Color that evokes a sense of calm

 'Fun' yet challenging project;  
departure from regular government  
building design



Copper Sparkle





# Designing the WisDOT iCommons: Facilities Vision – (con't)



 Inviting entrance was a high priority



Old entrance





New entrance



# Creating the WisDOT iCommons: Circulation Area



 Circulation area consists of joined spare desks bolted together and custom-fitted with table top and front panel

 Cost about 1/10 of a library circulation table



Old circulation desk



New circulation desk






# Creating the WisDOT iCommons: Collaboration Areas



 Collaboration Cove, iCommons – 56 sq. ft.

 Collaboration Corner, North Stacks – 64 sq. ft.

 Digital white boards and printers, data/phone access, recycled tables and chairs



Collaboration Cove  
iCommons




Collaboration Corner  
North Stacks



# Creating the WisDOT iCommons: Main Reading Area



 Occupies 42 sq. ft./next to reference area



Main reading area  
Old library



Main reading area (foreground)  
iCommons





# Creating the WisDOT iCommons: Map Case



 Electrostatically painted, more visible location



Map case – old library





Map case – iCommons



# Creating the WisDOT iCommons: Recycled shelving




-  Electrostatically painted existing WisDOT Library shelves
-  Electrostatically painted recycled shelving from other state agencies





# Creating the WisDOT iCommons: Study Carrels – A/V space



 Implemented through configuration of system furniture and stand-alone recycled items – network access; 16 sq. ft.



iCommons




North Stacks



# Creating the WisDOT iCommons: iCommons Reading Lounge



 Donation from Secretary's Office, items purchased at 50% of regular price; occupies 48 sq. ft.





# Creating the WisDOT iCommons: Other spaces – Webcasting

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# Creating the WisDOT iCommons: Other spaces – SANE LANE





# Creating the WisDOT iCommons:

## Decorative Accents I



-  Carpet for iCommons recycled; from WisDOT's Materials Lab building
-  Accent pieces samples from Web ( [www.mannington.com](http://www.mannington.com) ) and ReStor
-  Total cost about ¼ of new carpet installation



Carpet - iCommons




Carpet – North Stacks



# Creating the WisDOT iCommons: Decorative Accents II



 Transportation-themed art and clock, silk flowers





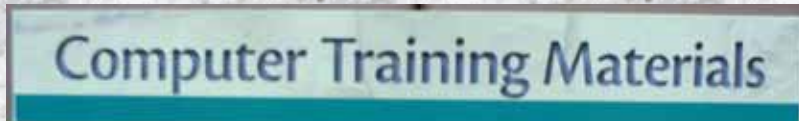
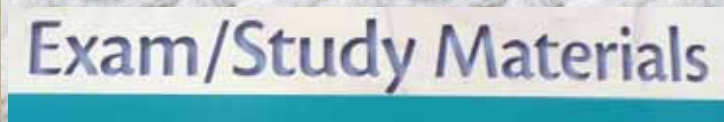
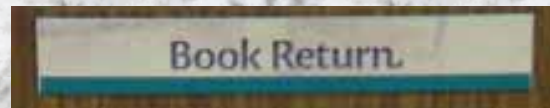
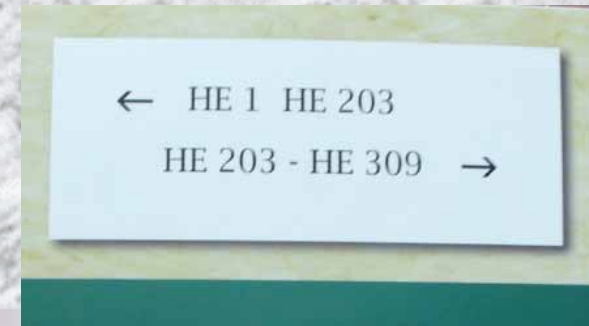
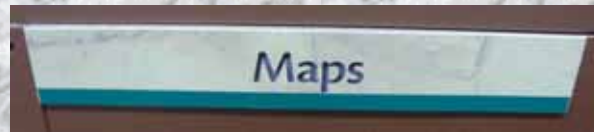


# Creating the WisDOT iCommons: Library signs



 All signs based around theme of lobby entrance sign

 Consistent look and feel





# Creating the WisDOT iCommons: Other recycled items



 Recycled from Facilities warehouse, including wooden glass cases



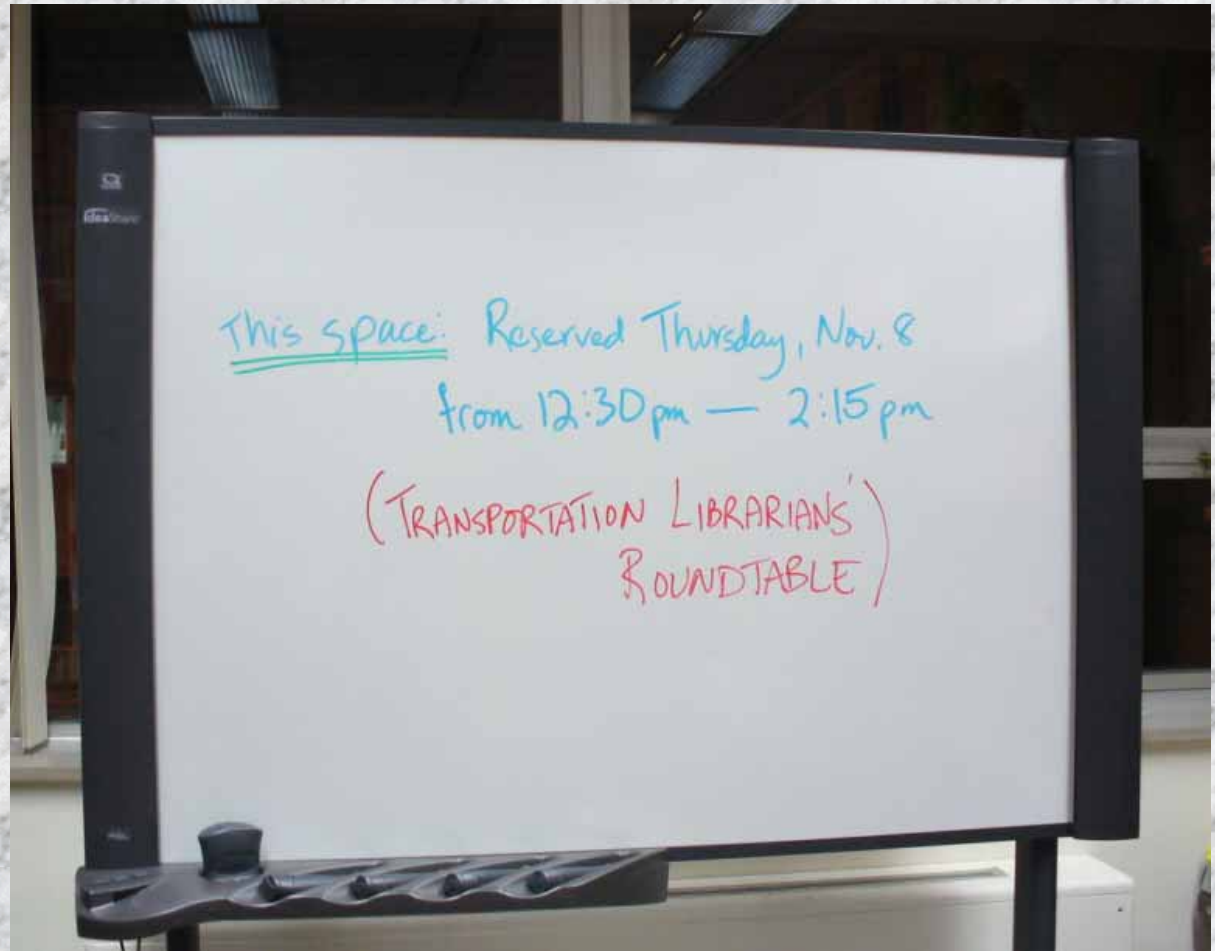


# Creating the WisDOT iCommons: Final Thoughts



 Reactions to the iCommons

 Thank you!!



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