

Title: Reflections on space: UCD Health Sciences Library
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Abstract:

The UCD Health Sciences Library sits at the heart of the UCD Health Sciences Centre. Completed in 2006, the centre enabled the relocation of constituent disciplines from multiple locations across Dublin city to the main university campus in South Dublin. The amalgamation of the disciplines of Diagnostic Imaging, Medicine, Midwifery, Nursing and Physiotherapy marked a substantial achievement in UCD's objectives of consolidating and reinforcing the teaching and research agendas.

The new UCD Health Sciences Library was designed:

- To support the pedagogical shifts in approaches to teaching & learning in UCD.
- To create an atmosphere conducive to furthering the development of the multi-disciplinary teams necessary in healthcare today.
- To create flexible & varied student centred spaces.
- To take account of the shift in library holdings from print to online.

The paper will provide an overview of the design process with focus on the rationale and ethos driving and informing the library's design. Three years on we reflect on the library space. Did design map to user need? How successful is the space? How do users engage and utilise the space? Can the spaces which a library provides support the strategic goals of the parent organisation?

This paper aims to examine these questions looking in particular at the following spaces and services provided in the UCD Health Sciences Library: Problem Based Learning and Group Study Rooms; Information Skills Training Room; lounge zones; laptop lending; self-service lending; Anatomy Specimen Library, a collaboration with the UCD School of Medicine & Medical Sciences, and the Health & Wellbeing Collection, a bibliotherapeutic collection developed in collaboration with UCD Student Health Services.