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Watch This Space: Library Renovations, Repercussions, and Reimaginings—Introduction

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Watch This Space: Library Renovations, Repercussions, and Reimaginings-- Introduction

Abstract

In 2022, the South Carolina Library Association (SCLA) College & University Section officers organized a Q&A-style discussion panel, "Watch This Space: Library Renovations, Repercussions, and Reimaginings," presented at the SCLA Annual Conference. Some of the authors who participated in the panel--Ruth Hodges, South Carolina State University; Kim Kelley, University of South Carolina Beaufort; Ann Holderfield, formerly of the University of South Carolina Beaufort; and John Barnett, University of South Carolina Upstate--have written about their experiences.

Keywords

library, libraries, buildings, renovation, colleges, universities, best practices

Watch this Space: Library Renovations, Repercussions, and Reimaginings

In 2022, the South Carolina Library Association (SCLA) College & University Section officers organized a Q&A-style discussion panel, “Watch This Space: Library Renovations, Repercussions, and Reimaginings,” presented at the SCLA Annual Conference.

We recruited panelists from academic libraries at University of South Carolina Upstate, South Carolina State University, University of South Carolina Beaufort, and Coastal Carolina University to share their insights and diverse experiences with planning and inheriting library building renovations. These librarians spoke from various stages of the process: advocating, planning, construction, and post-renovation.

The panelists each delivered a brief presentation on their library’s space design project, followed by a moderated discussion. When preparing the curated questions, our

topics of greatest curiosity were: How involved did librarians feel in the planning? Did it seem that the ideas and opinions of library staff were acknowledged? How important was campus community involvement and input in the renovation process? What did they worry about during the process that turned out not to be a problem (or didn’t worry about that turned out to be a big issue)? If they could wave a magic wand, what is the one change they would make to their library building? What has surprised them about how students use the library space?

The SCLA College & University Section offers many thanks to the librarians who participated in this discussion and shared their inspiring projects and enlightening experiences.

Introduction by Jean Thrift

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