Future of the UNCG Library:
Opportunities, Needs, and Project Planning

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Presentation Summary

1. Intro
2. Comments on libraries today
3. Overview of UNCG library issues
4. UNC Greensboro campus master plan and the library
5. Library Master Space Planning Project
Martin Halbert
New UNC Greensboro Dean of University Libraries

- 30 year career, with previous positions at Rice, Emory, and University of North Texas
- Principal Investigator on $7M in grants & contracts, with a focus on collaborative digital library innovations
- Experience with variety of library construction and renovation projects
Libraries Today

• High-technology enabled research centers
• Serve as campus crossroads and centerpiece shared facilities for many different university functions
• Combine the best of new innovations with strongest traditions of academia
“The Jackson Library tower is overwhelming in its consistency and greets the Walker Avenue transit hub with an imposing blank wall causing the building to be out of harmony with the campus.”
The Jackson Library is very cramped, but still has an average gate count of 1.25M per year!
Key Problems Identified

Wholly inadequate space
• Jackson has ¼ the seats recommended by national standards
• Very few effective group study spaces, most are simply tables in the open, few are technology enabled
• No multifunction rooms for flexible group purposes

Massive non-compliance with ADA and basic safety codes
• No fire suppression throughout the tower
• Stacks and other areas are not ADA compliant

Facility is obsolete, decrepit, and not fulfilling the range of needs that a library should provide a university
UNCG Master Plan and the Library

• All campus master plans developed in the last 10 years have highlighted the need for expansion and renovation of the library as a top priority
• The library is located at the geographic crossroads of the main UNC Greensboro campus, and is envisioned as a major transit point
• Further, there are many other university needs identified in the campus master plan that could be addressed by a library expansion and renovation
Rendering from previous Campus Master Plan
Rendering from 2014 Campus Master Plan Update
Library Master Space Plan Project

RATIO Design architectural/engineering group (comprised of NC-based firms) hired to prepare:

- A program statement describing the Libraries’ plan and projections for growth, expansion, and transformation through new resources and services in response to the changing needs of the University community

- An analysis of the square foot deficits and code violations

- Recommendations for expanded capabilities in spaces for teaching and inviting larger groups onto campus for conferences and meetings, spaces for projected growth of unique collections

- Investigation of options for partnerships with other campus departments (such as enrollment management needs for a student welcome center) and/or other area libraries for collaborative efforts to mutually benefit shared constituencies
Library Master Space
Plan Activities to Date

- Architectural team has held multiple visioning sessions with primary university stakeholder groups, including students, faculty, staff, and library donors.

- Targeted exploratory meetings have been held with key university partners, including Student Enrollment, Office of Research, Campus Facilities Design & Construction.

- Campus planning team of 10 stakeholder representatives have gone on site visits to 8 major library construction projects (in GA, NC, & VA) to identify possibilities and desirable features for UNC Greensboro.
Timetable and Rationale

- Aggressive 6-month timetable has been set for this project
- Rationale is to create a plan which has the possibility of being shared in the regular (long) GA session of 2019-2020
- Funding is obviously an issue, and various options are under consideration
Photo: Georgia State University Library, CURVE data visualization center