What Is The Library + Commons@Phillips Memorial Library?

The Library + Commons is the seamless integration of the Traditional Library ↔ with the ↔ Technology-Rich Commons.

The Traditional Library
-- books, face-to-face services and interactions, etc. --
leftrightarrow
The Technology-Rich Commons
-- electronic resources, anytime-anywhere services and interactions --

The Library + Commons is the library designed & focused exclusively on patron needs:

- Point of Need: where patrons are in their work:
  reflection ↔ research ↔ analysis ↔ synthesis ↔ processing-to-product ↔ evaluation
- Level of Need: freshmen, graduate, faculty research
- Time of Need: anytime, 24/7
- Place of Need: in-library, dorm, across town, the country, the world: anywhere
- Format of Need: although we often guide patrons to the entire collected series, the book, chapter, or journal article, our patrons prefer, and are accustomed to, using key-word searches (Google, etc.) to find only the page, the chart, graph, sentence or phrase
- Speed of Need: although we often prefer that patrons spend 10-45 minutes with us to find the best collection of information for their research needs, they often prefer to do quicker searching and fill their need in less than 5 minutes, often in 30 seconds or less

The Library + Commons offers the patron the continuum of services and resources:

- Comfortable, aesthetically-pleasing surroundings: chairs, sofas, lounges, collaborative spaces, art, cared-for areas: the library as place
- Friendly, helpful, capable staff: desired affect of service at desks, pleasant, helpful, “roving” staff, staff who are there when the patrons needs assistance
  - Information Station: main floor, staffed 8 am-11:00 pm/midnight most days by research support staff, with two collaborative PC stations and one collaborative Macintosh station with double monitors, shareable wireless keyboards and mice, a scanner, variable furniture for use in flexible ways for collaboration
  - Support Station: second floor, staffed many hours each day by research support staff with access to scanners
  - Creation Station/Macintosh Lab: main floor, accessible during all library hours, supported by Library + Commons staff at all times with computers and scanners
  - Digital Services Lab: main floor, staffed 10 am-10 pm most days by expert digitization support staff with access to PC and Macintosh computers and scanners
- Easily accessible information resources in all formats – paper (in-house, HELIN loan, interlibrary loan), electronic, microform – all in or from within the library or from wherever the patron is – informational control
Richesse of technology in the **Library + Commons**
- 50 high-end desktop PCs with DVD/RW capabilities, and MSOffice+
- 4 PCs also have scanners
- 18 high-end desktop PCs with DVD/RW capabilities and MSOffice+ in the electronic classroom
- 29 laptops for student check-out with MSOffice+
- 5 high-end iMac Macintosh computers and scanners with Microsoft Office, Adobe Creative Suite, and Apple iLife software
- Digital Services Lab with 2 high-end PCs and 2 Macintosh computers, scanners for various formats, and full range of productivity & digitization software
- Wireless 802.11 a, b, and g access for College and patron computers
- 10 high-end scanners (8½"x11" and 11"x17") with Photoshop image manipulation and OCR/Optical Character Recognition software
- 6 public printers (color printing options in the future)
- 5 public scanners on the main floor, 2 public scanners on the second floor, and additional format scanners in the Digital Services Lab

Spaces for collaboration
- 3 open group study rooms with high-end PCs for 8 to 9 persons
- 1 open group study/presentation rehearsal room for up to 25 persons with data projector and screen, available laptop computer and video recorder
- Macintosh Creation Station with high-end iMacs and scanner
- Wireless laptops available for checkout to enhance technology tools
- Information Station desk with 3 collaboration stations each with computer, double-monitor, wireless keyboard and mouse, and ample comfortable & versatile furniture

Access to tools: high-technology, electric/manual small & large staplers, small & large hole-punches, pencils/pens, paper-clips, etc.

Access to refreshments: gourmet hot drinks on ground floor, drinks in covered containers allowed in the building

**Into the Future:**

The **Library + Commons** will perhaps:
- Add more Macintosh computers, scanners and laptops for checkout, and more collaborative group study spaces over time, as patron use and preferences suggest;
- Provide more refreshments over time, as patron use and preferences suggest; and
- Provide extended hours over time, as patron use and preferences suggest.

Still the central components of the **Library + Commons** will remain the same:
- **Explicitly focused on patron needs**
- **Seamless integration of the traditional high-touch Library with high-tech Commons**
- **The full range of resources enabling and facilitating all academic research activities from reflection→research→analysis→synthesis→processing-to-product→evaluation**