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Information Commons Issues and Trends: Voices From the Frontline

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“INFORMATION COMMONS ISSUES AND TRENDS: VOICES FROM THE FRONTLINE”

Panel Program, April 12, 2003, 10:30 A.M.—12:00 Noon
Charlotte Convention Center

Program Web Site: library.uncc.edu/infocommons

Colorado State Univ., Emory Univ., Univ. of Arizona, Univ. of NC Charlotte, Univ. of So. California, Elon University (NC), Brookdale Community College (NJ)

Summary: Increase your understanding of Information Commons (IC) concepts, models, planning, implementation and assessment. Hear from IC leaders regarding models that their libraries are developing, evolutionary processes their ICs have undergone, challenges and successes in the past years, and what the future holds. Interact with panelists and audience members and get your questions answered.
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6. **David Murray**, Library Director  
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   Author of Web Site: “Information Commons: A Directory of Innovative Services and Resources in Academic Libraries”  
I. Introduction – purpose/outcomes
   • Increased clarity of IC concepts, definitions, problems, and possible solutions
   • Better understanding of IC planning, implementation, assessment issues, rationales and effectiveness of various IC service models
   • Assist Library administrators in planning for minor or major changes in IC service models
   • Assist Librarians in planning for participation in changing service models
   • Assist Library administrators and librarians in planning new or remodeled facilities

II. PowerPoint – ICs of Panelists
   For each institution briefly mention:
   • IC model developed
   • Evolutionary process
   • Challenges and successes
   • Future

III. Issues

#1: Information Commons: Types and Common Elements
   a. Common components, services and resources
   b. Spectrum of institutions – types and scale of size
   c. What’s on the desktop? – usable, useful and appropriate to Library’s mission
   d. Some specific questions:
      • What are some historical IC models?
      • How does each model reflect integrated or discrete service provision?
      • Is there a “best formula” for a dynamic Information Commons?

#2: Information Commons: Rationale for the I.C. model
   a. Reasons, rational for Integrated ICs
   b. Advantages to patron – instructional technology into library, building institutional contacts, etc.
   c. Supportive of student learning
   d. Advantages accruing to Library
   e. Some specific questions:
      • Are ICs impacting bibliographic instruction?
      • Are ICs the solution to the “deserted library” problem?
#3: **Planning, Implementation, Fine-tuning**

a. Spaces  
b. Staff (professional, paraprofessional, student)  
c. Management  
d. Resources  
e. Do’s and Don’t’s – challenges and rewards  
f. Some specific questions:  
   - Does effective IC service delivery require a “hybrid” support staff or does the pace of technological changes instead require increased staff specialization?

#4: **Challenges – Tragedies and Resolutions**

a. Resources depletion  
b. Obsolescence & replacement of technologies – institutions commitment to state-of-the-art resources  
c. Resistance  
d. Chauvinism  
e. Dealing with success – future implications (Steve Gilbert – TLTR)  
f. Specific questions:  
   - What is the future of the IC?  
   - How might IC models evolve in the coming decade?

IV. **Questions** – directly from audience (mike) or submitted to Barbara Tierney
Information Commons Selected Bibliography
by
Donald Beagle, Library Director
Belmont Abbey College

David Murray’s (Brookdale Community College, New Jersey) excellent website, with an extended list of articles:

http://www.brookdale.cc.nj.us/library/infocommons/ic_home.html


