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Announcements

MLS invites all member library staff to give input on the **MLS Strategic Plan** by attending a focus group session. One session will be held for each library type, as well as three open meetings for any type to attend.

Thursday, June 12, 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Public Libraries

Friday June 13, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., Academic Libraries

Thursday July 17, 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Burr Ridge Open Meeting

Tuesday July 22, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Virtual Open Meeting

Tuesday July 22, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., Special Libraries

Friday August 8, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Chicago Open Meeting

Thursday August 14, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., School Libraries

Participants must register on the MLS Calendar of Events:

<http://www.mls.lib.il.us/calendar>.

MLS is looking for four members to serve on the **2008 MLS Awards Committee**. This committee, consisting of one member from each library type, an MLS board member, and an MLS staff member, will coordinate the nomination process and select the winners, presented at the annual meeting. Interested members should email Diane Colletti at collettid@mls.lib.il.us.

School and Youth Service Library Staff are encouraged to register for the **MLS Summer School Institute**, taking place on Thursday, August 14, 2008. Presentations include Keynote Speaker Toby Rajput, National Louis University, on "Promoting the School Library to Your Administration," as well as breakout sessions on Resource Sharing, Weeding, OCLC, Booktalking to Parents, and more. Registration is limited. Register by July 25, 2008 through the MLS CE Calendar <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/calendar/>.

MLS is pleased to announce the creation of the **Technology Managers Networking Group**. This is a member-run group that discusses the use and application of technology in libraries. All MLS members who have either an interest or responsibility for technology in their library are invited to attend. The first meeting is Thursday June 12 from 11:30 – 1:00pm at MLS Burr Ridge. Sign up here: <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/calendar/CalendarManage.cfm?ID=2440>.

The deadline to purchase tickets for the **Chicago White Sox Library Appreciation Night** is Friday, June 6, 2008. On July 3, 2008, the White Sox

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are offering specially priced tickets to all librarians, library staff, trustees and their families and friends. Use this form to purchase tickets

<http://www.mls.lib.il.us/consulting/pdf/SoxLibraryAppreciationNightFlyer.pdf>
[Permalink]

Customer-Focused Library Grant Update

Libraries of all types are facing an increasingly competitive environment for information services. The Internet, book and video chains, and other retail outlets are offering resources that libraries previously monopolized. While user expectations are changing, libraries have not evaluated their spaces and service models based on retail experiences and standards. [Permalink]

[Read full article](#)

http://www.mls.lib.il.us/ennounce/2008/02_10/CFLinitiallessons.asp

Continuing Education Events

[Conducting a Communication Audit for Your Library](#), Peggy Barber, Tuesday, June 17, 2008, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., MLS Chicago

[Library Records Confidentiality Act](#), Roger Ritzman, Tuesday, June 17, 2008, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., MLS Burr Ridge

[Impact of Mobile Devices in Libraries](#), Megan Fox, Thursday, June 19, 2008, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., MLS Burr Ridge

[Front Line Customer Service](#), Marianne Rowe-Dimas, Tuesday, July 8, 2008, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., MLS Chicago

[Wiki as Intranet: Best Practices from an Academic Library](#), Beth Ruane, Wednesday, July 9, 2008, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., MLS Chicago

For more info and to register, visit the MLS CE Calendar at

<http://www.mls.lib.il.us/calendar/>. [Permalink]

Grants & Awards

Joel Sanders, University of Illinois at Chicago's (UIC) Library of the Health Sciences, is the winner of the **2008 Robert P. Doyle Award** (<http://www.ila.org/membership/awards/doyle.htm>). Established in 1999, the award is open to support staff working in all types of libraries.

The **Polestar Award** is presented to honor members of the Illinois School Library Media Association who have made outstanding contributions to school library media programs in Illinois. Nominations are due by September 1: <http://www.islma.org/polestar.htm>.

The **Highsmith Award** is to annually recognize a school library media center's achievement in planning and implementing an innovative or creative program or service which has a measurable positive impact on its users. Applications for this award are due by September 15th: <http://www.islma.org/highsmith.htm>. [Permalink]

WebJunction Illinois: Change is at the Crossroads

WebJunction and its many partner sites, including WebJunction Illinois, are undergoing a major update that goes significantly deeper than mere design, layout, or even features. Late this summer, WebJunction Illinois will re-launch on an entirely new technology platform loaded with new features, a dramatically different design, and extensive improvements to all aspects of the community and learning experiences. Here's a preview. [Permalink]

[Read full article](#)

http://www.mls.lib.il.us/ennounce/2008/02_10/WJILchanges.asp

SWAN Staff Attends the 16th IUG Annual Conference

Held in Washington, D.C. April 27-30, 2008, Innovative Users Group (IUG) Conference attracted over 1,600 library professionals from nineteen nations. Attendees participated in over 150 programs conducted by their colleagues and Innovative staff. The content of these offerings included best practices for using Innovative products, reports on creative and unique implementations of technology, and reports on partnerships with the company's product-development team. [\[Permalink\]](#)

[Read full article http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2008/02_10/iug.asp](http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2008/02_10/iug.asp)

MLS Service: New Computer Lab in Burr Ridge

Forget about gathering around the water cooler. MLS staff and a number of visitors at the Burr Ridge office have felt themselves inexplicably drawn to the new, state of the art computer lab. And it is no wonder that they gravitate to the refurbished lab with its new furniture and PCs. An MLS staff member couldn't resist the urge to pick up the wireless keyboard and mouse and exclaim, "Look, Ma, no wires!" [\[Permalink\]](#)

[Read full article](#)

http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2008/02_10/computerlab.asp

Member Spotlight: Loyola Information Commons

A joint project of the University Libraries and Information Technology Services, the Richard J. Klarchek Information Commons (IC) offers both space and the technology for group study and team learning, high-speed Internet connectivity including wireless, and comfortable spaces for serious work, reading, and relaxation. The IC is the ideal place to learn, share, connect, create and relax on Loyola's Lake Shore Campus. [\[Permalink\]](#)

[Read full article http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2008/02_10/LoyolaIC.asp](http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2008/02_10/LoyolaIC.asp)

Next Issue

The next issue of *MLS E-nounce* will appear June 18, 2008. [\[Permalink\]](#)

The Customer Focused Library Grant: Initial Lessons Learned from Retail

by Gretel Stock-Kupperman, MLS

Libraries of all types are facing an increasingly competitive environment for information services. The Internet, book stores, video chains, and other retail outlets are offering resources that libraries previously monopolized. These sometimes-competitors offer planned, uniform service environments that focus on the needs of the customer. The experiences of library users are being shaped by their retail interactions and experiences online and in stores. While user expectations are changing, libraries have not evaluated their spaces and service models based on retail experiences and standards.

Metropolitan Library System (MLS), in partnership with four member libraries, wrote an LSTA grant to bring in a nationally recognized retail space consulting firm to help understand the changing needs of library patrons. Four libraries in the Chicago area, three public and one academic, were studied for two days each, utilizing a combination of observation, interviews and video. Researchers used mapping programs to track and time patrons' movements and interactions within the library, library patrons were given an exit survey to discover their experience in the library and what services they use, and small video cameras were installed in key areas of the libraries in order to capture behavioral patterns, traffic flow, and wait and transaction times. The results of the study were presented by EnviroSell Inc. (<http://www.envirosell.com>) on April 29, 2008. Below are some of the key findings they spoke about.

Library Visitors

Patrons visit the library fairly often. At least half of the patrons reported coming to the library once a week, with 95% reporting they come at least once a month. The largest group of patrons at the library was ages 34-44, with one third of public library patrons being under the age of 24. The most surprising finding on library visitors was that about half primarily visit alone, and are only in the library for less than ten minutes.

This finding, combined with the fact that one-third did not know what they wanted before they arrived, provides a great opportunity to libraries to target materials and services to a receptive audience. In a traditional retail model, a single shopper is more open to product messages than someone shopping with a partner or family. This openness gives a library the opportunity to connect a patron with what they want.

Visitor Behavior

One-third of patrons visited a desk as their first destination. Whether this was to allay confusion or seek knowledgeable help was unclear, but they clearly sought staff to direct or assist them. This was particularly true of desks closest to the door, which impacts how these service desks may be staffed in the future.

Age impacted where in the library users visited. Younger patrons used the computers and seldom visited sections with circulating materials. Older patrons were less likely to use the computers and self-check systems. Patrons of all ages who stayed in the library longer were using the library as a gathering place, a study space or a social space, not just a place for information and materials. Also, while 70% of patrons checked out books, 51% also checked out audiovisual materials like CDs, DVDs, and audiobooks, with a large number of younger patrons preferring AV over books. Libraries will need to respond with a wider variety of audiovisual items as this trend continues.

Assistance

Over half of patrons, excluding circulation transactions, were observed receiving assistance of some kind. Finding items on the shelf caused the greatest need for assistance, followed by finding the right section. Less than 15% of patrons needed help with guiding research, explaining services, and recommending items.

Libraries will need to reconsider how they are staffed and how they are marketing services to respond to these kinds of trends. While patrons are receiving assistance, some of their needs could be better met by staff where the patrons are located as opposed to coming to a desk. Site-maps and coherent signage may alleviate some of these directional questions, freeing staff to take on other patron-focused tasks.

Signage

A major strength of any good retail environment is the clarity of their signage. Compared to other spaces, library signage was viewed very infrequently, by only 12% of patrons. Of this low number, signs on the stacks were consulted the most. EnviroSell staff also commented on the confusing language of some signs, which had a large amount of jargon or abbreviations that meant more to staff than to the patrons.

Signage is the greatest tool to connect patrons with materials, either by indicating sections or introducing patrons to new authors. Easily changed, attractive signage in highly visible areas produces the most impact.

Best Practices and Looking Forward

MLS staff and the four partner libraries are currently working on a set of best practices based on Envirosell's findings. The final report will be distributed at a session on July 22, 2008 at the MLS offices in Burr Ridge (<http://www.mls.lib.il.us/calendar/CalendarManage.cfm?ID=3440>). Attendees at that session will have the opportunity to hear each partner speak about their experiences, as well as what they plan to do with the findings particular to their library. Academic libraries will have an opportunity to discuss the findings particular to North Park University, the academic partner on the grant, at a meeting on June 13, 2008 in the MLS offices in Chicago (<http://www.mls.lib.il.us/calendar/CalendarManage.cfm?ID=3691>). Further findings and the implementation of changes based on the project will be discussed at the Illinois Library Association Conference in September (<http://www.ila.org/events/conference.htm>).

For those interested in viewing Envirosell's presentation and report, they can be found on the MLS website at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/consulting/envirosell.asp>. The best practices report will be posted here as after the July 22nd presentation.

Funding for this grant was awarded by the Illinois State Library (ISL), a Division of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), under federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

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WebJunction Illinois: Change is at the Crossroads

by Jeannie Dilger-Hill, MLS, and Lisa Barnhart, WJIL Project Coordinator

WebJunction (<http://www.webjunction.org>) and its many partner sites, including WebJunction Illinois (<http://il.webjunction.org>), are undergoing a major update that goes significantly deeper than mere design, layout, or even features. Coming late this summer, WebJunction Illinois will re-launch on an entirely new technology platform loaded with new features, a dramatically different design, and extensive improvements to all aspects of the community and learning experiences.

Design goals for this next version of the site included:

- Deliver improved and easier-to-use experiences for users based on extensive feedback from many voices in the community.
- Develop a site and technology platform that will be a solid foundation for the future.
- Take advantage of many developments in learning, community, and social technologies that have emerged in the past few years to create the premier online learning community site for library staff.

The end result will create better ways for both library staff and the organizations that support them to connect, create, and learn:

Connect

- Personalization - Updates, news, activities, events. A range of new features to make WebJunction Illinois feel like home.
- Social Tools - Use powerful new social features to find and connect with colleagues from across the library community to share ideas, insights, recommendations, and common interests.
- Content-Centric – Allow users to collaborate and build their own communities around discussion topics, articles, courses, and more.

Create

- Member Contributed Content - New tools make it easier than ever to make your name shine while contributing your knowledge and insights to the broader library community.
- Common Interest Groups - Members will be able to create their own small communities on the topics that interest them, and invite their friends and colleagues to collaborate.
- Courses - WebJunction Illinois will have a customized course catalog which will include a number of LibraryU modules as well as the option to add courses to share with our members or the library community as a whole.

Learn

- Learning Management and Tracking – Individual organizations can plan, manage, and track member progress against learning plans and goals using tools previously affordable only to the corporate world.
- Improved Course Selection - The course catalog is being built with new, more relevant, and more flexible courses to help users develop the skills they need to thrive.
- Blended Learning – Opportunities will be available to pair the new collaboration tools with Web conferencing to deliver a true blended learning experience.

New Logo



The signpost logo is at long last being retired in favor of a new, clean, simplified logo. What exactly is that logo, you might ask? It's a stylized bird's eye view of a street intersection (continuing the "junction" theme)...or it could be four letter J's stuck together to play off our name. It depends on who you ask.

Course Transition

WebJunction Illinois is particularly excited to be a part of new improvements and additions being made to the course catalog and content this summer. The WebJunction Illinois Course Catalog will be more focused, with courses matched to specific competencies and skills. A significant number of LibraryU courses will also be incorporated into the Catalog with more to follow in the future. The new and improved course catalog will provide many more courses to you as well as continue to add more library specific content.

In preparation for this transition, WebJunction Illinois users should remember these important things:

- The course catalog will be unavailable for one week starting July 14, 2008, and no new enrollments will be allowed from June 21 to July 21, 2008.
- If you are currently enrolled in a course we encourage you to finish it and print your certificate by July 14, 2008.
- If you are considering enrolling in a course, we encourage you to do so by June 21, 2008, and complete the course by July 14, 2008.
- NOTE: This timetable does not apply to the facilitated courses, the University of North Texas LE@D courses, or the free webinars available through WJIL.
- For your records, you may want to print out your course list or all course certificates prior to mid-July.

Did You Know?

- WebJunction Illinois has the most registrations in the United States!
- The Sample Illinois Library Policies has been one of the top 3 areas of the site accessed.
<http://il.webjunction.org/do/DisplayContent?id=19563>
- You can read and view the archives of "E-News from the ISL" on BlogJunction Illinois. Visit the blog at <http://webjunctionworks.org/il/blog/>, or subscribe to the RSS feed at <http://webjunctionworks.org/il/blog/index.php/feed/>.
- The Illinois Veteran's History Workshop is available in video on the site:
<http://il.webjunction.org/do/DisplayContent?id=20149>.
- One of the features of the new platform will be the opportunity to create your own Communities of Practice through the WebJunction Illinois site.

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SWAN Staff Attends the 16th IUG Annual Conference

by Nancy Ciesiel, MLS

Held in Washington, D.C. April 27-30, 2008, Innovative Users Group (IUG) Conference attracted over 1,600 library professionals from nineteen nations. Attendees participated in over 150 programs conducted by their colleagues and Innovative staff. The content of these offerings included best practices for using Innovative products, reports on creative and unique implementations of technology, and reports on partnerships with the company's product-development team.

Staff attending the conference included Dean Bryan, Director of Automation Services, Heidi Bruss, SWAN Software & Training Manager, Sandy Hayes, SWAN Network Administrator, Tony Siciliano, SWAN Database Manager, and Nancy Ciesiel, Automation Administrative Manager. Together the group attended the Public Library Consortium Forum that offered consortia libraries the opportunity to meet with each other and Innovative staff members to discuss concerns. Separately, staff attended a combined total of approximately 62 sessions. Pre-conference workshops attended included *Library Staff Transitions: Managing Your Library's Innovative System through Staff Changes* and the New Users Conference track with creative titles such as *What Your Mother Never Told You About Loan Rules* and *webpub.def – The Untold Story*.

Jerry Kline, Chairman and CEO of Innovative welcomed attendees to the conference's Opening Session. He and Betsy Graham, Vice President of Product Management at Innovative, presented the 2008 Be Innovative! Award Winners. The awards program is held annually to recognize the creative and outstanding uses of Innovative products. Winners this year were recognized in four categories:

Most Innovative Implementation of eResource Discovery

Birmingham (AL) Public Library (<http://vulcan.bham.lib.al.us/>) was recognized for using WebBridge LR (Link Resolver) to link to Amazon.com for e-resource discovery in WebPAC Pro, Innovative's web-based public catalog product.

Most Innovative Staff Program

Las Vegas-Clark County (NV) Library District (<http://www.lvcclld.org/>) won first-place honors for "Concierge Key with Self-Check." This innovation allows library staff to work more efficiently with third-party self-check workstations.

The second place award was presented to West Palm Beach (FL) Public Library (<http://www.wpbpl.com/>) for developing a training Wiki that includes technology competencies for various topics including Millennium.

Most Innovative WebPAC

Mid-Hudson (NY) Library System accepted first place honors for their new Kids Catalog (<http://gigcat.midhudson.org:90/search~S2>), which takes advantage of features and customization opportunities in the new KidsOnline product.

The Watzek Library of Lewis and Clark College and eLGAR, Libraries for a Greater Auckland Region (New Zealand), tied for second place for Most Innovative WebPAC. The College was recognized for their "Easy Course Reserves Requesting," (<http://library.lclark.edu/reserves/>) which enables instructors to find an item in the catalog and automatically generate an email to the circulation department reserving the item and indicating course number and loan period. "Implementation of AirPAC" (<http://www.elgar.govt.nz/airpac>) earned eLGAR second place in the Most Innovative WebPAC category. Library staff created a Flash-driven "web tour" to promote the launch of AirPAC, Innovative's wireless online catalog application for small-screen devices.

Most Innovative Patron Services

Ryerson University Library (Canada) won first-place honors for applications that enable users to access the library website, including the WebPAC, from their page on the Facebook social-networking website. <http://www.facebook.com/apps/application.php?id=2354484787&b>

Recognized in second place, Hong Kong Baptist University Library staff used the Millennium Patron API to integrate user-specific notices from the library into iCalendar-compatible applications. http://www.hkbu.edu.hk/lib/new/announcement_ical_award.html

Each winning library received a "Starfire" crystal trophy. First- and second-place winners received monetary awards of \$1,000 and \$500 respectively and other prizes.

The Innovative Users Group was formally organized in 1991 as an international organization of member libraries that use Innovative Interfaces' integrated library software products. From its inception, the IUG has been an independent organization dedicated to serve as a forum for involvement with the development and use of Innovative's products and services. For more information about IUG, visit <http://www.innovativeusers.org/>.

MLS Installs New Computer Lab in Burr Ridge

by Su Bochenski, MLS

Forget about gathering around the water cooler. MLS staff and a number of visitors at the Burr Ridge office have felt themselves inexplicably drawn to the new, state of the art computer lab. And it is no wonder that they gravitate to the refurbished lab with its new furniture and PCs. Staff can't resist the shiny, new streamlined 22-inch monitors with their wireless keyboard and mouse. One visitor to the lab was heard to comment, "They're so cute, they make you want to take a class!" An MLS staff member couldn't resist the urge to pick up the wireless keyboard and mouse and exclaim, "Look, Ma, no wires!"

In order to best serve our members and provide the latest technology training, the MLS IT Department has unveiled a new, state-of-the-art computer lab in our Burr Ridge location. This upgrade has long been needed, as the previous computers were seven years old, making them practically dinosaurs in terms of technology.

In addition to the streamlined, professional appearance, the new computers are much faster and powerful than the previous ones. They are Sony VAIO LT17N's, an all-in-one model with an enormous 22-inch screen. Upon viewing the new PCs, one MLS staff member bent over and kissed the monitor when she discovered that she could read the screen without her glasses! Wireless keyboards and mice help keep the table surfaces free of clutter and allow room for hand outs or note taking. The operating software is Windows Vista, with Office 2007 and Millennium loaded for training.

Additionally, slimmer tables and chairs were purchased, which allowed us to increase the size of the lab from ten student workstations to fifteen. More student workstations means that more members can attend each class, increasing the number of CE hours MLS can offer.

The new lab equipment was possible in part thanks to Praxair, Inc., from whom MLS received a \$35,000 grant earlier in the fiscal year.

As always, MLS would love to hear comments or suggestions from our members. Feel free to contact Su Bochenski at bochenskis@mls.lib.il.us with any questions or comments about the new lab.



Flat screen monitors, wireless keyboards and mice, and new furniture in the new MLS Burr Ridge computer lab.



The new 15-participant computer lab was funded in part by a grant from Praxair, Inc.

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Loyola Information Commons Brings Technology into the Open

by Jeannie Dilger-Hill, MLS

A joint project of the University Libraries (<http://www.luc.edu/libraries/>) and Information Technology Services (<http://www.luc.edu/its/>), the Richard J. Klarchek Information Commons (IC) offers both space and the technology for group study and team learning, high-speed Internet connectivity including wireless, and comfortable spaces for serious work, reading, and relaxation. The IC (<http://libraries.luc.edu/about/ic/>) is the ideal place to learn, share, connect, create, and relax on Loyola's Lake Shore Campus.

The entry to the steel and glass building is on the west side. Designed for students and faculty, the IC does allow guests day passes with a photo ID. Two story windows on the east side look out onto Lake Michigan. With glass on either side, one can literally look through the building to the lake. The building was intentionally designed this way to mitigate the loss of green space on the campus.



The entrance to the Information Commons, on the west side of the building, shows the view through the building to Lake Michigan.

Throughout the first floor, large comfortable chairs in shades of brown and black invite visitors to sit and read. Not surprisingly, the most popular seating lines the east window wall. This seating, initially turned inward, has been all rearranged by students to face the lake. Plants and a green carpet contribute to the lush, peaceful feeling.



Students study or relax with a view of the Lake.

Technology

The entire building offers over 250 computers, 80% PCs and 20% Macs. Computers are arranged in a variety of configurations. Some areas have banks of computers on table tops. The second floor offers sections with one computer at

a table with seating for five people to work in a group. Each floor has printers and scanners available, as well as outlets for laptop use.

Fifty laptops are also available for checkout for 3 hours. Laptop battery length is 3 hours, and extra batteries are kept charging behind the desk to be switched out when the laptops are returned. When all laptops are checked out, restaurant-style pagers are issued to students who are waiting. WiFi is available throughout the building.

IC staff are paying close attention to the use of the space, and adapting accordingly. IC Director Leslie Haas noted that even individual students prefer the single computer at a large table, so that they have space to spread out and work. The IC staff hopes to rearrange some configurations to allow for more workspace around some individual computers.

The building houses 28 group study rooms, each designed for 4-6 students. One group study room offers videoconferencing equipment for use by faculty and staff.

Second Floor

Sweeping metal staircases on either side of the entry lead to the second floor, which houses more individual and group computing stations and group study rooms. A Writing Center offers help and tutoring for students.

The second floor also boasts a Digital Media Lab for students, staff, and faculty. Funded in part by a \$25,000 grant from AT&T, the Digital Media Lab offers audio, video, editing and graphics equipment. Music keyboards and a plotter are also available. The Lab even circulates equipment such as headphones and cables. Lab staff hope to begin offering workshops in the fall semester.

Another popular service on this floor is ResNet, often described as “The Geek Squad for Students.” Loyola students can bring in their laptop or PC and receive help diagnosing and fixing problems. Toward the end of the semester, lines form down the hallway for this service.

Third Floor

A Quiet Reading Room on the third floor has been designated a “no technology zone.” Food and drink are also not allowed in this room, which is decorated in slate blue and grey, with a marble fireplace and two chandeliers. Dark wood walls include some glassed-in shelving, giving the whole room the feel of a personal library.



Students relax in the Quiet Study Room.

The first, second, and third floors each have an information desk in the center of the floor. Each desk is manned by staff from ITS and IC/Cudahy Library.

Fourth Floor

The fourth floor, a large, open multipurpose space with a vaulted ceiling, is designed for meetings and events. Windows to the east open onto a patio overlooking Lake Michigan. Windows to the west look out on a green roof with succulents and other low-maintenance plants. This floor will eventually have a catering kitchen for events.

Café

A café on the first floor offers pastries, sandwiches, and coffee. Two flat screen TVs on the walls show CNN and ESPN. The café is open until midnight, making it popular with students. The second and third floors also offer vending machines.



The café tables look out onto Lake Michigan.

Near the café is a hallway connecting the IC to Cudahy Library. Eventually, after some campus construction, plans call for closing the main entrance to Cudahy Library, so that all library visitors will enter through the IC.

Environmental Design

The IC is designed as a high-performance building that maximizes thermal comfort and indoor air quality for students, faculty and staff using the building. The IC uses a combination of under-floor air distribution and radiant concrete ceilings that provide thermal mass to cool in the summer and heat in the winter. A central building-computer system makes constant adjustments to achieve a very energy efficient building.

Key design elements of the IC include:

- Chicago's first double-skin facade for passive management of heat flow and natural ventilation throughout the year.
- Mechanically-operable blinds and shades within the facade that adjust daylight levels and heat transmittance from the afternoon sun.
- Lighting that automatically dims closer to windows during the daytime, to take advantage of natural light.
- Radiant concrete-slab ceilings that provide thermal mass to cool in the summer and heat in the winter
- A green roof that absorbs rainwater and relieves some of the runoff into Lake Michigan.
- Carpet tiles made from recycled materials.

The 72,000 square-foot building was designed by Devon Patterson, Principal, Solomon Cordwell Buenz. The building opened January 14, 2008, and hosted over 162,000 visitors in the first four months. For more information about the IC, visit <http://libraries.luc.edu/about/ic/>.

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