Increasing Accessibility and Collaboration One Year at a Time

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About the Health Sciences Library

- Serve undergraduate medical students, dietetic interns, residents, faculty and staff. Also support the members of our host institutions.

- Small physical collection (8,472 hardcopy. 13,266 electronic resources).

- Focus on collecting digital resources since users are distributed throughout 843,853 sq km of Northern Ontario.
About the Health Sciences Library

- Library Spaces:
  - NOSM @ Lakehead (Thunder Bay) - 2,223 sq feet
  - NOSM @ Laurentian (Sudbury) - 2,925 sq feet
Funding

- Publicly funded by two ministries.
- Fiscal year - May 1st to April 30th.
- Not permitted to roll funds from year to year.
What’s left for space improvements?

- Rely on operating funds to find dollars for space improvements.

- After salary and collections dollars 3.05% of the overall budget remains.

- Must also cover core maintenance and support licenses (ex. ILS) with the 3.05%.

- Exact figure remaining is not know until January-April (last 4 months of the budget year).
Standard Accessibility Spaces Management and Services

- Ensuring a standard egress between furniture, bookcases and walls.
- Providing library users with accessible study tables and public PC terminals.
- Photocopying and scanning services via information desk staff.
- Automated door entry.
- Loaner laptops with Kurzweil 3000.
- Formatting our LibGuides to so that they are readable by text to speech and related software.
- Webpage describing accessibility in the library [http://libraryguides.nosm.ca/accessibility](http://libraryguides.nosm.ca/accessibility)
Stand Up Desks

- Began looking for multi-purpose furnishing that could meet the needs of all our users.

- Are accessible by users with varying accessibility needs and working preferences.

- Stand up desks may also play a role in preventative health.
Stand Up Desk - Information Desk
Stand Up Desk - Public Space
Noise Management

- Our library is currently unable to offer silent study and our space is kept as a quiet study environment.
- Behind our front desk are our staff cubicles.
- Noise complaints were received from both staff and users.
Noise Management - Earplugs

Need that extra bit of silence?
We sell ear plugs!
25¢ per pair at the front desk.
Collaborative Furnishings

- Replaced bulky and uncomfortable castor desk chairs at both locations over a two year period.
- Partial funding from Facilities at Laurentian location.
- Full funding from Facilities at Lakehead location.
- Has drawn in study groups.
Collaborative Furnishings

- Thunder Bay booth seating installed April 2017.
- Aimed to enhance our lounge space and support group study.
- Accessible tables.
- Coordinating outlets including USB ports.
Accessible Outlets

- Few outlets in the library space.

- 2017 purchased portable chargers.

- Bookable or borrow on demand.

- In-house 4 hour use.
Tips on Making it Work With Annual Funds

1. Stay current with your users.

2. Have a vision for your space including form, function and aesthetic.

3. Don’t give up!
“Transforming Health Sciences Library Spaces” (Summer 2018).

Thank you to Patty Fink, Director for the funding information and Marian Diamond, Library Coordinator for Lakehead images.

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