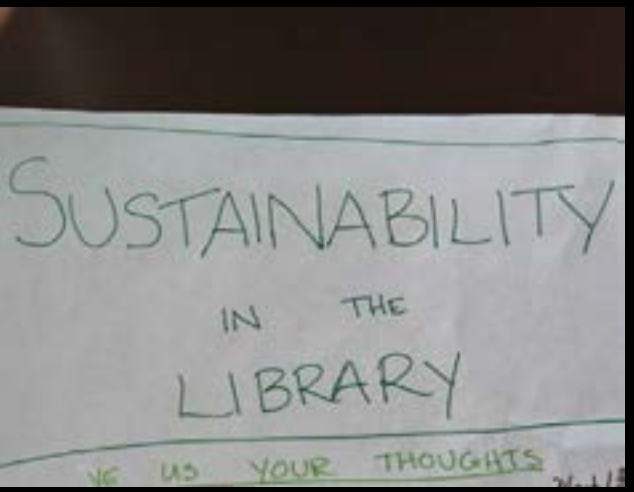
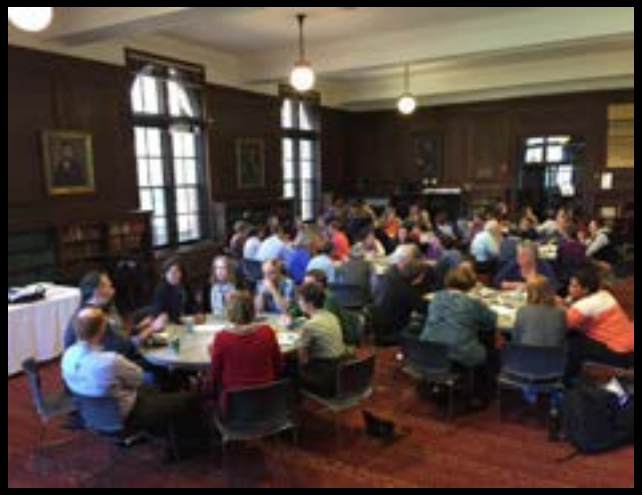
Theme 08:
SUSTAINABILITY

What Makes a Sustainable Library? A Campus Conversation

Bring your ideas and help frame our thinking about library programming as it relates to sustainability.


SUSTAINABILITY
IN THE
LIBRARY
US YOUR THOUGHTS



How important is sustainability to this project?

TOP ANSWERS

- **Very** important
- Secondary to **function**
- **Crucial** to any and all projects

WHY is it important?

- Social justice
- Reduce costs in the long run → Living Building
- Smith mindset
- Human interaction
- Builds better communities
- Build for the future/**long-term**
- Value of being a model/leader to others
- Ability to sustain library programs over time
- Central to campus
- Meeting climate commitment
- Expectation of Smith community
- Why spend resources on a building that isn't sustainable?
- Resilient design → a durable building

What principles should be infused through the project?

DURING CONSTRUCTION

- Fair labor practices (Union labor) in construction
  - *Women, people of color, locals*
- Waste management
- Material sourcing
  - *Local, natural, non-toxic*
- Salvage/Re-Use/Recycle from existing building

FOR THE FINAL DESIGN

- **Diversity** of spaces
- **Flexibility**/configurable spaces (community interaction)
- Fewer but **high quality** spaces/ maximize shared spaces
- Green space, Use of **outdoors**
- **Inviting** and **inclusive**
- "Smells" like Smith spirit: **reflects the past**
- **Natural** light
- Monitoring/Tracking of material and energy usage

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER EVALUATION

- What is environmental impact of offsite collections? More books onsite = less travel = energy savings?
- How does Smith College limit stress of students and staff who will have been without a library for 2+ years?
- How does the project balance sustainability goals with user demands?
  - *Adequate lighting at night*
  - *Walls vs. windows*

What is the MOST important aspect of sustainability to be considered in this building?

SYSTEMS

- Focus on **energy efficiency**
- Healthy building → air quality
- **Balance + control** of natural light and artificial lighting (ambient and task)
- Environmental impact
- Books, printers and technological sustainability

SPACES AND RESOURCES

- Flexibility of spaces to accommodate changes over time
  - *Allow spaces to evolve with changes in technology*
  - *Needs of students and other users now and in the future*
- Separated spaces for books and collections
- Preservation of the books // keep used collections onsite and unused collections offsite
- Movement throughout spaces

What are the sustainability teaching opportunities associated with the library and its landscape?

OPERATIONS

- Less reliance on paper
- Sharing documents, collaborating
- Landscaping: what is being planted
- Smart building feeding back to building energy use
  - *Monitoring/ Dashboarding/ Energy Awareness*
- Passive and active sustainability measures
  - *e.g. orientation of light to maximize intensity*

CURRICULUM/ DISCIPLINE

- Psychology: how people use a building
- Engineering/Architecture: how is it built, integration of sustainable design

TEACHING

- Art: opportunities to showcase
- Leave channels open for teaching and appreciating the landscape
- Talking to community about what sustainability means → Interdisciplinary
- Involve students over time
  - *Is there an opportunity for students to be involved in researching/sourcing materials?*
- Could spaces show transformation over time, show perpetuation of sustainability?
- Final product vs. process
  - *Communicate sustainable materials use in construction*

How important is a rating e.g. LEED or Living Building petals?

TOP ANSWERS

- Good to aim for because of external audience/PR
- Baseline: LEED Silver
- LEED minimum, aspire to Living Building
- Ethical reason to go for highest standard we can achieve
- LEED may not go far enough
- Measure energy use or carbon neutrality
- **Living Building** → holistic approach

FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION

- Affordable?
  - *Could depend on donor requirements*
- Ways to be sustainable outside of LEED constraints
- Can you build a LEED building and have un-sustainable aspects?

How might this building reflect some of the non-energy aspects of sustainability?

Intergenerational equity?

- Open to Northampton community
- Configurable, non-tech spaces
- Sustainable and adaptive technology
- Building on rich legacy of books
- Responsibility to future generations

Climate adaption/resilience?

- Consider responses to climate change
- Think about surrounding community, also outside Smith
- Do we want library to be a beacon (at night) or will light being cast upwards interfere with night sky?
- Pollinators on top of building
- Plants that flower throughout seasons
- Landscape permaculture, native planting, storm water management
- Adapt to severe weather patterns of future: micro storms
- Change throughout seasons: aesthetic and efficiency purposes

Health and wellbeing?

- Sense of health, wellness
- Avoid too many computers as a distraction
- “Cold zones” getting away from screes
- Natural light, Air quality, Temperature
- Plants from the Botanic Garden
- **Ergonomic** designed computer stations/furniture
- Restorative space
- Lounge space, comfy spaces, seating
- Implications of the people making the materials we use: product supply and lifestyle

Provide Feedback Here:

http://www.smith.edu/libraryproject/feedback.php