VISION, v.6

DRAFT // PROGRAM COMMITTEE VISION

(YOUR COMMENTS)

The intellectual heart of the campus, the Neilson Library complex advances and celebrates learning, benefitting all who come to Smith. The Library complex **(Neilson Library and Alumnae Gymnasium)** welcomes diverse modes of **knowledge making** – from quiet, solitary **reading and study** to lively brainstorming and collaboration – enabling **the purposeful exploration, creation, and sharing of knowledge**. In the complementary spirits of continuity and transformation, we envision a sustainably designed library that supports scholarship and teaching, provides access to knowledge, and inspires and equips future leaders of a networked world.

Our renovated Library complex **is the center of a rich learning and research ecosystem.** It curates outstanding resources: books, documents, artifacts, digital resources, **and other technologies** consulted by researchers from around the world and open to the explorations of every member of the Smith community. **The library's users – learners, teachers, readers, researchers – convene here to study and connect, exchange ideas, and access expertise and to create knowledge.** The digital library within the physical library may be imagined as a hub with spokes: anchored in the physical building and supporting teaching and learning across the Smith campus and beyond. In the service of its overall mission, **the Library maps pathways to** multifaceted **services** and convenes expert staff who partner with faculty and students in the enterprise of teaching, learning and research.

The Library complex connects Smith's past to its future. Originally constructed in 1909, two decades before Virginia Woolf's famous protest in *A Room of One's Own* against the exclusion of women from great libraries, it remains a material expression of Smith's early and ongoing commitment to advancing the future of scholarship and women's education.

In ways that are appropriate to their diverse functions and that promote intensive use, library spaces will be **reconfigurable,** accessible, inclusive, flexible, inviting, responsive and/or technology-rich, consistent with Smith's deep commitment to sustainability in all our human practices.

VISION

DRAFT // GUIDING PHILOSOPHIES & PRINCIPLES

Activities, services, and resources in the library share an intensive focus on three core aspects of knowledge making: exploration, creation, and sharing of knowledge. These are the cognitive and social foundations of learning and scholarship at all levels.

The **four** additional principles (below) are aligned with the commitments emerging from the parallel Committee on Mission and Priorities strategic planning process.

1. Create flexibility now and for the future, ensuring adaptability of the building over time, to the best of our ability.

2. Provide for the range of activities **that comprise purposeful and playful knowledge making**, spanning quiet, contemplative study and lively collaboration:

   - **Align with what we have learned about how students and faculty work. [Highlights will be listed when complete.]**

   - Emphasize uses **and activities.** Prioritize those that can only happen in the library, happen best in the library, and benefit from the library's special resources and purposeful atmosphere to create new synergies that advance Smith's mission

   - **Promote inclusive excellence in learning and research:** as appropriate to their diverse functions, all spaces will be **reconfigurable, accessible,** flexible, inviting, responsive, and/or technology-rich, consistent with Smith's commitment to inclusiveness in our human practices.

3. Apply campus sustainability principles to **functions, services, and resources** ~~the library vision, program, and design:~~

   - Priority will be given to those functions that answer common needs, share and/or integrate services, so as to maximize our ability to meet the interests of multiple users, given our resource constraints.

   - Program in a way that's less about historical ownership of space and more about modes of work and modes of learning – so as to use space efficiently and effectively to meet the interests of core users. (CMP retreat 9/3/15).

   - Avoid or limit highly-customized ~~/owned~~ spaces; instead, offer fewer, higher quality, more flexible, and more intensively used and shared spaces. (CMP whitepaper fall 2015).

4. We acknowledge that not all campus needs will be met in this renovation.

   - **The program committee seeks to balance the core needs of three key user groups: students, faculty, and library staff who use the library in very different ways, as our campus study makes clear.**
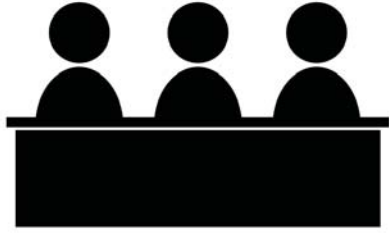
(YOUR COMMENTS)

VISION

# DRAFT // LEXICON

Book: gives the library its name (liber), a resilient, time-tested, remix technology that varies in form to include the clay tablet, papyrus scroll, parchment codex, fine letterpress print on handmade paper, scholarly hardback, pulpy mass-market paperback, and bytes displayed in pixels on a screen.

Staff experts: the network of knowledge pioneers, stewards, partners, and guides, who bring diverse knowledge bases as technologist, reference specialist, teacher, curator, archivist, conservators, and more. They are committed to sharing the expertise needed to help Smith faculty and students navigate, integrate, and use ~~primary~~ **knowledge resources through** rich technolog**ies**
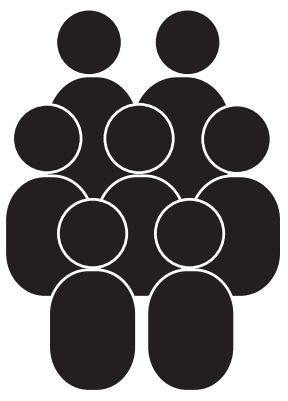
Inclusive ~~and accessible~~**:** program and design that reflect current research about how students learn. Given Smith's mission of access, particular attention should be paid to the needs of first generation college students, those with diverse abilities and learning needs, and those from diverse educational backgrounds, so that the renovated complex supports diverse ways to thrive academically. **Experiential and collaborative learning spaces are important features of inclusive programming.**

Accessible: spaces and functions are responsive to different ages, physical abilities, and learning needs. These tend to be flexibly programmed, with reconfigurable and adaptable furniture and resources.

Responsive: welcoming physical environments that provide the constraints needed to reduce cognitive load, optimizing higher functions of memory, attention, imagination, contemplation, analysis, discovery and creation, in inclusive and accessible ways.

Flexible for the future: the library will respond nimbly to changing practices of learning, study, and knowledge making. We expect to see as significant change in the future as we have in the past two decades in the technologies and practices of making and sharing knowledge. We view change as an opportunity to learn what we value in our own practices and traditions and to embrace those values in new ways. As Alyssa Graveline '19 puts it, "we change in order to preserve."
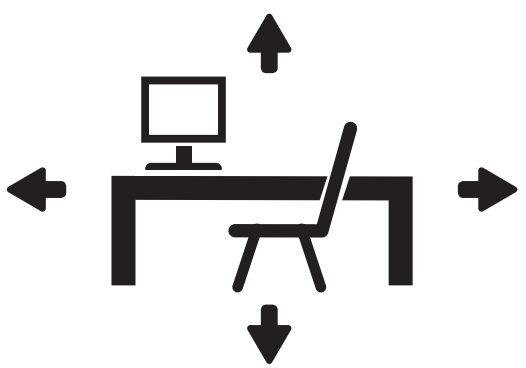
Reconfigurable: spaces and functions are designed for users to adapt them to different purposes at different times of day, season, and year. Re-configurability is an important success factor for those with diverse abilities and learning needs.

Technology: information resources that span the long history of knowledge making, from the earliest forms of writing preserved in our unique Special Collections, to books and journals, digital information tools, repositories, databases, and increasingly linked data systems.

Technology-rich spaces: spaces infused with appropriate information resources spanning the long history of knowledge making, from the earliest forms of writing preserved in our unique Special Collections, to printed books and journals, to digital information tools, repositories, and databases, to furnishings that support their varied use.

Innovation/Maker space: To come

Digital Hub: To come.

Commons: To come.

(YOUR COMMENTS)