

Envisioning The Skylab

The New University of West Florida Libraries' 21st Century Learning Space

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Abstract

Envisioning the Skylab: Conceptual Dreams and Pragmatic Realities

The University of West Florida Libraries New 21st Century Learning Space

(Lisandra Carmichael, Jeannie Kamerman, Ray Uzwysyn, University of West Florida)

In early 2010, The University of West Florida Libraries was awarded a large University Technology Fee to develop a new student-centered technology-enhanced learning space, the Skylab. This panel pragmatically explores Skylab dreams and pragmatic realities recounting lessons learned and wider conceptual ideas to provide a first-hand look at inventive solutions and ongoing possibilities for a current new academic learning space project. The center of the Skylab is a synergistic set of new millennia learning areas, reinventing the university libraries main building's, top-floor to create an integrated set of technology-enhanced learning spaces consisting of a non-traditional classroom, multimedia studio and media conversion center. Human resource and spatial needs are also being re-envisioned to manage this new student-centered area for innovation and learning. This panel presents and explores this recent journey foregrounding important wider factors and focusing conceptually upon meeting student needs and expectations with learning spaces. This panel will provide both ground floor overviews and conceptual frameworks for any university or academic library undertaking or thinking about the larger process of building these new academic learning spaces.

UWF Libraries

Technology Fee Systemic Proposal

“There is a growing need for formal instruction in key new skills, including information literacy, visual literacy, and technological literacy. The skills involved in writing and research have changed from those required even a few years ago. Students need to be technologically adept, to be able to collaborate with peers all over the world, to understand basic content and media design, and to understand the relationship between apparent function and underlying code in the applications they use daily.”(1)

Initiative/investment to enhance instructional technology:

Academic libraries in general, and the UWF Libraries in particular, are uniquely positioned to address precisely these three challenges.

- The systemic proposal of the UWF Libraries is designed to support new student learning patterns and make accessible a spectrum of information technology resources and services to students and the wider university community.
- This proposal will result in increased academic success and satisfaction by students, it will make the libraries central to the student community, and it will link the quality of this library’s resources with the accreditation of programs offered to students.
- This initiative proposes the creation of a new Instructional Technology and Information Literacy Center, Multimedia Work Stations, and a Media Conversion Center, in that priority order. Each one of these support and contribute directly to information literacy, visual literacy, and technological literacy.

Together, this initiative enables core learning technology abilities for students and the UWF community and brings core library facilities better in line with twenty-first century to meet the demands of a knowledge and innovation economy essential for the future growth of Florida.

The UWF Libraries serve all and are open 83.5 hours per week with additional hours during finals. The John C. Pace library alone was visited by 393,222 physical patrons last fiscal year with 451,580 online catalog sessions and 936,542 total page views of the libraries wider web presence for the fiscal year. Moreover, since students must now frequently wait in line for an available computer in the main and branch libraries, the need for additional computers is even more pressing. The libraries propose to be proactive to this increasing pace of technological need by enhancing its computing infrastructures and commitment to student-centered learning through this system-wide technology proposal. The Pace library has

already selected two areas on the fifth floor that can be used to accommodate the Instructional Technology and Information Literacy Center, Multimedia/Interdisciplinary Work Stations, and a Media Conversion Center. Additionally, if this proposal is approved we can divert one full time staff member to teach students how to use the equipment and software in these areas.

(1) Work cited: Johnson, L., Levine, A., & Smith, R. (2009). The 2009 Horizon Report. Austin, Texas: The New Media Consortium.

How initiative has a college/unit-wide or university-wide scope:

The libraries increasingly provide the main, basic resource computing/research labs on campus for students and faculty. The libraries are also the preferred research point for students collaborating on group projects. The facilities and computing infrastructure described directly translate to serving the widest possible university student population and enabling student technological services from all disciplines and colleges. Librarians will be available to assist students with research and class assignments. Librarians are experts in assisting students with their research and educational needs in a non-competitive, yet academic environment. They do this by fostering the students' involvement and encouraging networking in a non-judgmental atmosphere where students can feel at ease while completing assignments and learning new technologies. This is a value added function that no other unit or department on campus can provide.

Alignment with UWF Strategic Plan:

UWF's current vision statement (2008-2012) seeks to empower students with knowledge, skills and opportunity to contribute responsibly and creatively to a complex world. Central to this complexity and creative empowerment is basic access privileges to a rich centralized technological infrastructure for research, project collaboration, enabling technological possibility and information literacy. In terms of UWF's enduring values, the libraries' technology proposal focuses on empowering students through innovation and building a quality information environment to enable access, production and manipulation of information and research in various forms and through new digital possibilities. The UWF Libraries Technology Fee systemic program Proposal is in direct alignment with the University of West Florida Strategic Priorities and Measurable Achievements (2008-2012) in a variety of specific ways.

Specific Strategic Focus Points UWF Libraries Technology Proposal Addresses:

- **Strategic Focus: High Quality Academic Programs.** High quality academic programs need strategic technological support of students through increasingly specialized hardware/software. Technological demands of basic computer access are required even for rudimentary

current curricular assignments. For the libraries' mission, this translates to wider computer and information commons, multimedia abilities to support coursework and increasingly specialized technology-enabled spaces to accomplish project, collaboration and research tasks.

- **Strategic Focus: Academic & Student Support Services.** Student demand for technology is the libraries driving motor. The libraries received over 393,322 patrons in the 2008-2009 year in person with 451, 580 online catalog search sessions and 936,542 page views of other online services and pages. Outstanding technologically enhanced computing facilities and support services are essential for the libraries to serve the needs of our students in an increasingly evident way as seen by student demands in the libraries on a daily basis.
- **Strategic Focus: Partnership and Collaboration.** Learning environments are rapidly changing with a focus on both technology and collaboration. The Libraries propose to build on UWF's partnership/collaboration focus through the creation of various collaborative spaces, both technologically enhanced spaces (projector enabled/LED screen enabled group study spaces) and architecturally enhanced spaces (mobile furniture/desks for collaborative computing).
- **Strategic Focus: Investment in Students:** The heart of any great university is its students. UWF libraries proposes to foster a culture of excellence and access by creating 'great places' to study, collaborate and carry out research through an information rich technologically enhanced environment.

General Description of Benefits Provided

Benefits for the libraries' proposal of university-wide technology enhanced spaces are easy to see. These are open spaces, technology rich and technologically equipped centers which are readily accessible to the entire university community and build on the libraries essential infrastructure role as a great place for study, research and access information resources needed to carry out learning in the 21st century.

Instructional Technology and Information Literacy Center "Skylab" (See Appendix A and D – Layout and LCD Docking Station Example) A multi-use center to be used as a backup classroom, when necessary, but primarily as an open access computer laboratory, (with a full range of software packages) would allow the library to increase its "computer density" and thus to serve a greater number of students and serve them with a greater range of software programs. Librarians and technological savvy staff will also be available to assist students.

Multimedia Work Stations - Multimedia stations for digital technology and software give students open access to an increasingly important arena. From a learner's perspective, a wider use of media (images, sound, video, data) is increasingly the norm for individual and group curricula (See Appendix C - School of Education examples). In order to help our students meet course requirements each of the University's Libraries should have at least one multi-media work station with suitable ancillary hardware and software to accomplish course assignments and projects to better serve our tech-savvy millennial student population.

Media Conversion Center - A media conversion center provides human resources and equipment as well as enabling the wider student community with a needed resource service point. The libraries currently do not possess equipment for the conversion of analog media to digital formats. (See Appendix B)

How Success/impact will be measured:

Through annual impact surveys and reports:

- Evaluation of spaces, technology and centers
- Focus group consisting of a representative student and faculty group (graduate, undergraduate, online and Professional Studies) and focusing on the success and impact of new library technology services
- Satisfaction/future suggestions report from_students, faculty and library staff regarding the various spaces, centers and stations
- Gatecount, usage of PC's, User logins

Information Technology/Information Literacy Hardware Specifications (1 Year Implementation Timeline)	
30 PC's at \$1,400 Dell Optiplex 960 Small Form PCs (Energy-Efficiency/Quiet Kit)	\$42,000
19 tables (6ft. x 2ft.) at \$400 each	7,600
Instructor's Workstation – rolling, standing height	215
46 chairs at 4 for \$300	3,450
Digital Projector and screen	3,000
Industrial Large Flatbed Photo Scanner	4,800
4 LCD monitor 27" at \$500 each	2,000
PQA Printer	4,000
Miscellaneous Cables	500
Electrical/Ethernet Installation Services	5,000
Total	\$72,565

UWF Libraries System Wide Multimedia Work Stations (2 Year Implementation Cycle)**		
MacPro 8 Core	\$2,999 x 4	\$11,996
Second flat-screen		4,000
Adobe Master creative suite	\$899 x 4	3,596

Adobe Lightroom	\$299 x 4	1,196
Adobe Finale cut pro	\$999 x 4	3,996
Headphones, connector cables	\$400 x 4	1,600
Furniture (tables and chairs)	\$1,200 x 4	4,800
Digital Video Camcorder	1 each for ECC and CML	2,000
Digital camera	1 each for ECC and CML	1,200
Scanners	1 each for ECC and CML	800
Sub Total/ Per Year		\$35,184

**2 PC's Pace Library, 1 PC for Emerald Coast Campus, 1 PC for Curriculum Materials Library/year

UWF Libraries Media Conversion Center (1 Year Implementation Cycle)	
Graduate Assistantship	\$12,800
Benefits/fringe @ 25%	3,200
Audio/Video Analog Digital Conversion/Digitization Equipment	4,000
1 Multimedia PC/two large Screen Monitors	2,000
1 Large Flatbed/Scanner (Negative Capabilities)	3,000
Total:	\$25,000

Proposal Grand Total for all three components of this systemic tech fee proposal: \$ 167, 933.00

Student OPS will also be required to staff these locations in eh evenings and weekend and during the busy hours of the day. We estimate an additional \$20,000 per year for student OPS

Proposed Timeline and Implementation Benchmarks:

Set-up - 4 months from the time proposal is approved

- Order digital hardware and software
- Set up initial equipment
- Begin hiring process for conversion center and/or reallocate other staff for various operational scenarios
- Begin external marketing of new multimedia stations to students

Implementation – immediately after set-up is completed

- Officially open technology spaces, multimedia stations and media conversion centre for all students and wider UWF community.
- Begin staff training for media conversion center equipment, assessment of training needs and consultation with library higher administration and external stakeholders
- Finalize spaces, equipment and initial hardware/software infrastructure for future budgetary contingencies.

Assessment and Review - 4 Months

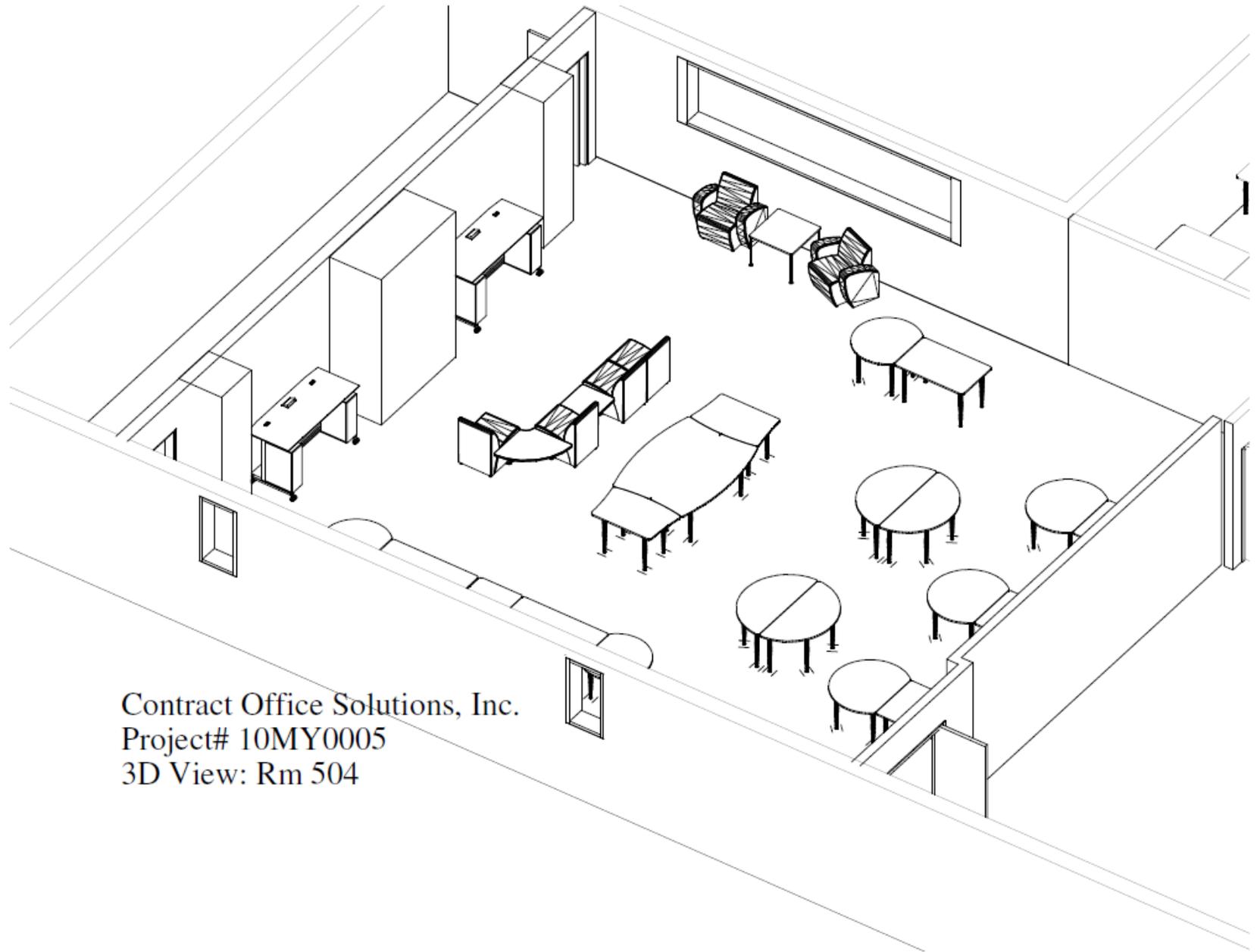
- Set up focus groups for students and conduct user satisfaction survey
- Conduct quantitative and qualitative user evaluation of spaces, technology and centers enabled
- Conduct usage and outcomes survey of services developed by the library for various student populations
- Report on user satisfaction/future suggestions from faculty, students and library staff regarding various spaces, centers and stations to external stakeholders and higher library administration.
- Compose longer term focus group consisting of a representative student and faculty group (graduate, undergraduate, online and Professional Studies) on the success and impact of new library technology services and ongoing needs.
- Present results.

Plan for sustainability beyond conclusion of funding from technology fee, if applicable

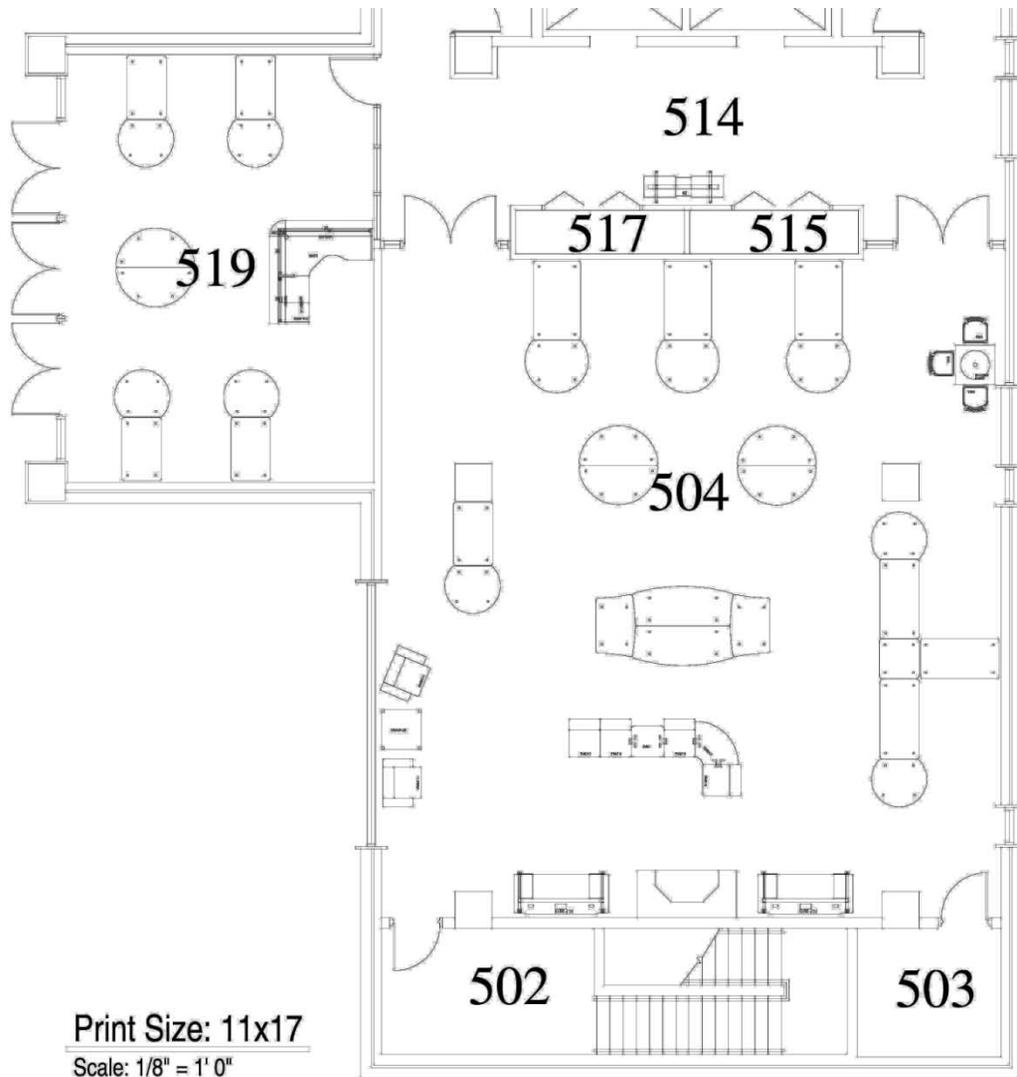
As this plan is systemic and involves the entire university library system and wider university community, several possible sources for sustainability of recurring funds may be found for equipment hardware/software and refreshment for several parts of this plan in the upcoming years. Many of these projects present core infrastructure service and directly align with other units/division mandates of the university including other principal campus locations (i.e. ECC Library, ECC/Northwest Florida College Campus, University UWF ITS/ATC, and Curriculum Materials Library/School of Professional Studies). For the John C. Pace library and to a lesser extent systemically, state academic library funding sustainability relationships are in place with FCLA (Florida Computing Library Association). For John C. Pace Special Collections and Archives, possibilities and partnerships are possible in the future with the media conversion center and the Department of History, Programs of Public History and Oral/Media History.

Overall Project Reporting:

- **Oversight and Accountability:**
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- **Media Conversion Center Lead**
Dean DeBolt
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3D View: Rm 504



Print Size: 11x17

Scale: 1/8" = 1' 0"

*** PLEASE VERIFY ALL ROOM DIMENSIONS AND ANY SPECIAL PHYSICAL FEATURES. THESE DRAWINGS ARE PROVIDED FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY***

Project: UWF Bldg 32
Pace Library

Skylab Project

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**May 26, 2010 Price Quote Summary for “Skylab” Technology, Classroom, Multimedia Studio and Media Conversion Workstation Equipment
(Final Cost Pricing vs. Original Estimate)**

Information Technology Lab (Main Classroom)

Final Equipment Cost

30x - Dell Optiplex small form factor PCs	\$42,240
1x - Infocus digital projector (assumes current screen stays in the room)	\$1,439.99
1x - Epson large format flatbed photo scanner	\$2,879
3x - Acer 27 inch flat panel monitors	\$1,264
1x - Projector mounting brackets and miscellaneous cables	\$500
1x - Miscellaneous network and PC supplies (e.g. network cables, switches, etc.)	\$5,000
1x - Update DeepFreeze license count for additional PCs	\$1,121
PQA Printer	4,380.89
DVI Video Splitter	1,531.81
DVI Video Switch (3)	841.77
Total (Excludes Furniture)	\$61,198.46

Original Proposal Estimate

30 PC's at \$1,400	\$42,000
Dell Optiplex 960 Small Form PCs (Energy-Efficiency/Quiet Kit)	
19 tables (6ft. x 2ft.) at \$400 each	7,600
Instructor's Workstation – rolling, standing height	215
46 chairs at 4 for \$300	3,450
Digital Projector and screen	3,000
Industrial Large Flatbed Photo Scanner	4,800
4 LCD monitor 27" at \$500 each	2,000
PQA Printer	4,000
Miscellaneous Cables	500
Electrical/Ethernet Installation Services	5,000
Total	\$72,565
(Equipment Only 61,300.00)	

*The Final Technology Classroom equipment Cost comes **61,300.00 (equipment estimate)-\$61,198.46 (equipment actual cost)=\$101.54.00** under budget from the estimate. **\$101.54** for further possible equipment contingencies.*

Multimedia Workstations (2 @ Pace, 1 @ CML, 1 @ ECC)

Final Cost Estimate

Original Proposal Estimate

4x - loGear digital media card readers	\$80
2x - Sony digital video camcorders (Pace, ECC)	\$2,304
2x - Nikon digital still cameras (Pace, ECC)	\$1,056
1 Canon Vixia HF S21 (CML)	\$1,399
1 Canon Rebel EOS T1i(CML)	\$749
6x - Kingston 16 GB digital media storage cards (for still and digital video cameras)	\$1,185
4x - MacPro 8 Core Computers with 2 monitors	\$18,388
4x - Epson flatbed and slide compatible scanners	\$3,260
4x - Adobe CS5 Master Collection & Adobe Lightroom	\$2,348
4x - Apple Final Cut Studio	\$1,196
4x - Sony Studio Headphones	\$854
Total	\$32,819

MacPro 8 Core	\$2,999 x 4	\$11,996
Second flat-screen		4,000
Adobe Master creative suite	\$899 x 4	3,596
Adobe Lightroom	\$299 x 4	1,196
Adobe Finale cut pro	\$999 x 4	3,996
Headphones, connector cables	\$400 x 4	1,600
Furniture (tables and chairs)	\$1,200 x 4	4,800
Digital Video Camcorder	1 each for ECC and CML	2,000
Digital camera	1 each for ECC and CML	1,200
Scanners	1 each for ECC and CML	800
Sub Total/ Per Year (equipment only 30,384.00)		\$35,184
**2 PC's Pace Library, 1 PC for Emerald Coast Campus, 1 PC for Curriculum Materials Library/year		
<p><i>The Final Multimedia Studio equipment Cost comes in</i> 30,384.00(estimate)-\$32,819(actual) = (-\$2435.00) <i>over budget from the estimate.</i></p>		

Media Conversion Center (Special Collections)

Final Equipment Cost Estimate

Original Proposal Estimate

1x - IoGear digital media card reader	\$20
1x - Lacie 1TB external USB hard drive	\$294
1x - Sony Studio Headphones	\$214
1x - Epson Expression 100000 XL Color Flatbed (11X17)	\$2,399.03
Epson Scanner transparency adaptor	\$482.62
Adobe Audition (Audio Production/Conversion Software)	\$335.16
Dell Precision T1500 64 Bit	2,132.21
Ion Tape 2 PC Cassette to MP3 Converter	104.59
Toshiba SD V296 DVD/VCR Combo	86.39
logear Memory Card Reader	19.54
Canopus Video Input Adaptor	274.82
1x - Vegas Pro 9	\$527
1x - Adobe Photoshop CS5	\$185
Total	\$7074.36

Graduate Assistantship	\$12,800
Benefits/fringe @ 25%	3,200
Audio/Video Analog Digital Conversion/Digitization Equipment	4,000
1 Multimedia PC/two large Screen Monitors	2,000
1 Large Flatbed/Scanner (Negative Capabilities)	3,000
Total:	\$25,000
(Media Conversion Center Equipment only Estimate 9000.00)	

The Final Media Conversion Center equipment Cost comes in **9000.00(estimate)-7074.36(actual cost)=\$1925.64** under budget from the estimate. **\$1925.64.** for further possible Media Conversion Center equipment contingencies.

Grand Total Skylab Current Equipment Costs = \$ 101,091.82

Final Technology Classroom Equipment Contingency = \$101.54

Final Multimedia Studio Equipment Contingency = \$-2435.00

Final Media Conversion Equipment Contingency = \$1925.64

(*30,384.00 Second Year Multimedia Studio Equipment Costs Remaining)

(5000 Technology Classroom Miscellaneous Cables etc. Remaining)

Respectfully Submitted:

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UWF Skylab Learning Spaces Bibliography

Learning Space Design: 271 Resources.

<http://www.educause.edu/Resources/Browse/Learning%20Space%20Design/17436>

As the subtitle indicates the site is a Meta-site from EDUCAUSE which includes publications, presentations, podcasts and blogs. The quality and quantity of the resources are equally superior. The Web site is an excellent starting point for the interested researcher.

21st Century Learning Spaces.

<http://www.educationau.edu.au/learning-spaces>

You can be certain our Australian colleagues are at the forefront in their planning for the students of today and tomorrow. The site includes international coverage of those concerned with learning spaces. Also includes links to knowledgeable bloggers.

Selected resources

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