A library with dual purposes and mutual benefits

SPC and the City of Clearwater are partnering to develop a new joint-use facility on the college’s Clearwater Campus. Bound only by imagination, joint-use libraries are places where patrons can discover new ideas and enjoy cultural enrichment opportunities, and students can focus on their academic pursuits.

St. Petersburg College already operates two other joint-use libraries in Pinellas County with the cities of St. Petersburg and Seminole. Both are thriving facilities where students and community members share access to an expanded range of resources. “The Seminole Community Library has been a terrific partnership between the City of Seminole and SPC’s Seminole Campus since 2003,” said Seminole Mayor Leslie Waters. “Our state-of-the-art library is a combination of a public library and a college library. Certainly a win-win experience for all.” At each facility, children and youth enjoy spaces and services designed specifically for them.

These libraries meet the curricular, research, cultural and recreational needs of the college and the community. The Clearwater Campus is home to nearly 10,000 students in Fall 2015, and more than 110,000 people reside in the City of Clearwater, making this a valuable college and community partnership.
NEW JOINT-USE LIBRARY

- Conveniently located on SPC’s Clearwater Campus at Drew Street and Old Coachman Road
- State-of-the-art, two-story building will be based on an open-space concept
- Replaces existing SPC facility built in 1964 that is cost-prohibitive to renovate

MODERN 40,000-SQUARE-FOOT BUILDING

- 10,000 square feet of public library space
- 15,000 square feet of college space
- 15,000 square feet of shared space

FOR THE COMMUNITY

Community patrons can enjoy walk-in access to 120 databases that contain general and academic material across a myriad of disciplines, from the arts and education, to foreign affairs, science, psychology and technology. The library will also offer programs for youth and community meeting space.

FOR THE STUDENT

St. Petersburg College libraries host Learning Support Centers, where students can find individual help, free tutoring and workshops to review core concepts, tackle tough homework assignments or prepare for tests. This is an essential aspect of students’ experience at SPC and fosters a climate where they can finish what they start. In fact, the college has found that students who visit our Learning Centers more than four times in a term have better than an 80% chance at success.
The library will contain more than 90,000 electronic and print books across disciplines and subjects including art, photography, music, social issues, ethics, history, law, world religions, mathematics, biology, anatomy and physiology.

Also offered will be more than 100 print journals and magazines of general and academic interest, combined with tens of thousands more in databases, providing students and members of the community an opportunity to explore leisure and academic interests.

Additional features include:

- Streaming videos, audiobooks, images, citation tools and music
- Thousands of online research databases
- Current and back issues of periodicals
- Electronic indexes, databases and audiovisual material
- Group and individual study areas
- Computer labs and laptops for check out (in-library use)
- Black and white or color printing and image scanners
PROVEN BENEFITS

At these joint-use libraries, community members and students share a broader range of library resources than what each institution could provide on its own.

The West St. Petersburg Community Library on the St. Petersburg/Gibbs Campus is the third largest library in the St. Petersburg Library System. Patrons at this library enjoy a robust schedule of family, children and youth events and access to more than 90 computers.

Adult programs include extensive computer classes, book discussion and writers’ groups and “meet the author” events. This library is also home to an outdoor playground and 8,000 square feet of indoor children’s space that includes a puppet theater.

This year the library received more than 215,000 visits.

The Dennis L. Jones Seminole Community Library on the Seminole Campus is home to growing print, media and electronic resources, program rooms, an art gallery and rooms for classes, conferences and reading.

In the summer of 2014, the college opened an Innovation Lab in the library, where community members and SPC students can use the latest technology tools, including a 3D printer, software, electronics and a computer dedicated to podcasting and audio experiments. Librarians hold weekly workshops in the lab, also known as a makerspace, where people can gather to create, invent, and learn.

Last year, this library received more than 300,000 visits.