

Education Library Tech Upgrade

Proposers:

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Sponsoring Organization: George A. Smathers Libraries

Purpose and Specific Objectives:

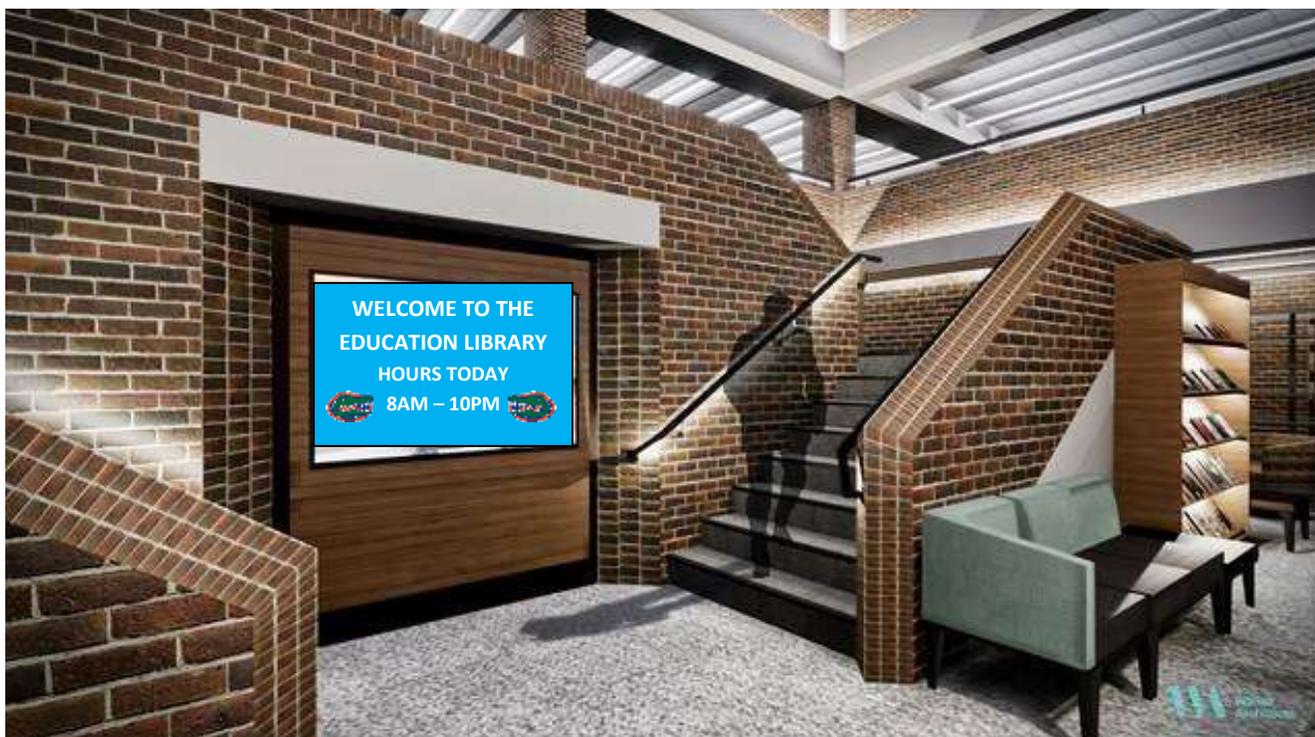
The George A. Smathers Libraries requests \$29,900 to provide and upgrade technology in current and newly constructed group study/collaboration rooms within the Education Library. Additionally, the proposal seeks Tech Fee funding to purchase a large monitor to display wayfinding information, and announcements from the Libraries, College of Education, and related campus organizations and student groups.

Group Study Rooms Upgrade – As part of the current comprehensive renovation of the Education Library, two additional study/collaboration rooms are in the process of being constructed along with the updating of five existing group study/collaboration rooms. Four of the group study rooms will have specialized existing equipment (collaborative technology tables), and this project team proposes the purchase of three touchscreen monitors with Crestron AirMedia for the additional three group study rooms. The diagrams on the next page show the location of three spaces proposed for proposed enhancement with new technology. One of these spaces is an existing study/collaboration room, and the other two are being constructed from a no-longer-used stairwell space, and a vacant staff office.

These enhancements will allow students to use their own devices to wirelessly display presentation slides, worksheets, documents, and websites to facilitate research and study needs. Library policy states that group study rooms can only be reserved for two or more students, but can be used by individuals when no groups have the rooms reserved. The added technology will offer technology opportunities offered in similar spaces within Library West and Marston Science Library.

information in a highly visible area between the main stairwells and face the main entrance. This tool will be a way to communicate with students about collections, services, and events related to the Libraries and the College of Education.

The Head Librarian conducted one-on-one interviews with both undergraduate and graduate students as part of the pre-renovation process. Ten students were interviewed and half described confusion in locating materials, specialized locations (including group study rooms), and specialized equipment within the Education Library. One student commented, “Put signs right in people’s faces” and that they want something at the entrance “right there to tell me everything.”



Impact/Benefit:

The Education Library counted over 123,000 visitors during the 2016 – 2017 academic year. In a pre-renovation survey [729 respondents] conducted by the Education Library, every college on campus was represented in the responses, indicating broad use of the Education Library as a study space, beyond those associated with the College of Education. In addition to the study/collaboration spaces described in this proposal, the renovated space will offer 101 additional seats for a total of 582 seats, a 20-workstation computing lab, 24 additional computers on the second floor, and an educational makerspace. With renovated spaces, updated technology and additional seating capacity, it is anticipated that there will be a significant increase in the use of the Education Library by the University community.

To further support the need for these proposed enhancements and spaces, during pre-renovation (FY 2017), students placed 3,343 reservations for five existing group study rooms at the Education Library.

Similar spaces in other campus libraries (41 rooms in Marston Science Library and Library West, equipped with touchscreen monitors with Crestron AirMedia) were reserved 61,584 times during the same period. It should be noted that the Education Library is the only library on campus east of 13th Street, where many students live, making it a convenient location for those who need to find a study/collaboration room and use enhanced technology in close proximity.

Sustainability:

The Libraries support this proposal and will maintain the equipment as needed in partnership with Academic Technology per Libraries/Academic Technology agreements.

Timeline:

August – September 2018

- Receipt of awarded Technology Fee funds
- Place orders for equipment
- Work with Library IT for UF Risk Assessment review of equipment

October – December 2018

- Testing and installation of equipment
- Staff training
- Creation of point-of-use instructional guides and signage for group study room technology.
- Advertising/Promotion
 - The Libraries will be beta-testing a new reservation system for group study rooms Summer 2018, with full implementation in Fall 2018.
 - A variety of marketing strategies (website, social media, email, posters, Preview materials, etc.) will feature the newly renovated Education Library and its enhanced spaces and services.
- Develop assessment plan

January – February 2019

- Initiate assessment plan
 - Information regarding the group study rooms will be included in a post-renovation survey.
 - Unobtrusive observations of space usage will be conducted.
 - Room reservation system data information will be collected.

Budget - \$29,900

The proposed quantity and current list price of each of the items is listed and may be adjusted based on prices of latest available technologies at the time of the Tech Fee award. Every effort will be made to find the best prices for all equipment purchased.

STUDY ROOMS - \$29,900			
Qty	Description	Per item	Total
3	AirMedia	\$1,300	\$3,900
3	Touchscreen monitors	\$8,000	\$24,000

DISPLAY MONITOR - \$10,000			
Qty	Description	Per item	Total
1	70" display monitor	\$2,000	2,000

