

Preliminary Planning for Library Collections and Services to support the NYTech Campus

February 2012

Collections and Access

The anticipated breadth of multidisciplinary subjects and entrepreneurial collaborations with commercial and foreign institutions has significant implications for providing world class access to resources for users of a hybrid academic (non-profit)/commercial campus/foreign institution that are affordable, sustainable, timely and will require dedicated staff and collections funds. From our experience with Qatar we know that publishers and societies will view this as another campus when it admits students. The cost to the materials budget will be over \$1M per year to start up and negotiation of hundreds of licenses for online access to secure the best terms will require 1FTE working in Ithaca starting in FY13. We estimate ongoing costs for the materials budget will be an additional \$3M per year (plus a minimum of 5% increase per year) as this campus will be more complex and will cover more subjects than Qatar. Beginning in FY 13/14 we need an additional 1.5 FTE to provide licensing negotiation and support as well as responsive technical support to troubleshoot ongoing access issues.

Subject/Information Expertise

A total of two to four librarian/informationists should be embedded in the 4 NYC Tech Campus hubs to provide research support services. The librarians will be members of research teams, instructing students in the use of information resources and discipline specific software, as well as serving as the onsite experts in information/data access and management, amassing competitive intelligence briefs, and the like. The staff of 2-4 should function as a cohesive virtual library team, with a librarian/informationist in a leadership role, providing the overarching vision and management for the NYC tech campus information services. Close collaboration between the NYC Tech Campus virtual library staff and Ithaca/Weill Med library staff is expected and essential.

Space Implications

The library will provide 21st century information support for the NYCTech campus through an extensive set of digital collections accompanied by the expertise necessary for navigating the challenges of that information environment. This model assumes no physical library space--but the community will need space and tools to collaborate, visualize, simulate, and share their next inventions. There were also be specialized databases that are IP- or computer-protected (such as Bloomberg terminals), requiring some physical presence that is carefully managed. The Library will partner with IT@Cornell to assure that students have the technology and tools they need to access information, and we will integrate our onsite information professionals into the individual and collaborative study spaces provided by the University on the campus. We look forward to partnering with IT@Cornell, student services, career services, intellectual property officers, and others to create a knowledge hub which would serve to satisfy the array of student and faculty needs. This would be a new and innovative model that is designed flexibly to keep pace with the growth of the NYCTech campus. Recently, a student defined the library as the place where "great minds think together." We see the Knowledge Hub as that place for the NYCTech campus.

Technology & Tools

Students at the NYCTech campus will need access to the full range of information tools and technologies that the Cornell University Library currently provides to students at the Ithaca campus – and more. Working as part of the IT@Cornell team, the Library will ensure that students have full authenticated access to the specialized software, computational tools, and information resources that their education requires. The Library will need to provide customized discovery and access solutions for licensed information resources that focus on the specific subject areas and match the entrepreneurial nature of the new campus. For reference and research questions, it will be important both to have onsite consulting adjacent to specialized computing spaces and to make sure that help is never more than a Skype call or IM away, wherever the student is located.