Meeting department goals and student expectations are a challenge with evolving budgets and changing perspectives on the purpose of library space. Repurposing library space to meet student needs while maintaining appropriate collections is a challenge and an opportunity for librarians and patrons alike.

At South College, institutional growth and student demand for study space, both physical space and time, highlighted a need for change within the physical confines of the library department.

Goals to provide usable space directed the library to reconsider the uses of existing space and the potential for reconfiguration. Goals to provide current collections with a new focus on online access directed the library to reconsider existing print collections that were no longer consistently up to date.

### Rethinking Space

One library resource center was reorganized, and three other locations were remodeled to create additional study areas.

In Knoxville and Asheville, physical collections were reviewed and downsized by removing outdated, unused materials. The two Knoxville libraries were then remodeled to add more study rooms and private cubicles.

At the Nashville campus, the library resource center was relocated to a different floor.

The Atlanta library resource center opened in October with the first “Virtual Library” test case, a study and computer workspace with no initial physical book collection.

### Collection Librarians

Collection Librarians were charged to shift focus from print to electronic acquisitions.

Librarians worked with faculty to review collections and provide recommendations for new resources, primarily ebooks or ejournals, to fill gaps in subject areas created by the removal of older materials.

### Fighting Size

In early 2018, growth in student population across South College began to test the limits of student-useable space for study and group work.

The institution reviewed library spaces to determine where changes could be made to accommodate students. From June-December, the libraries at the main campus and three learning sites underwent reorganization to provide additional study space for students.

### The Response

Library hours were extended at each campus to match the open hours of each building. Due to staffing constraints, the additional hours, 30-60 minutes in the morning and 2-3 hours at night, are provided as unstaffed “Access Hours”. Where available, student workers have been hired to provide help during the Access Hours.

Students regularly use the additional time for study and group work.

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### Rethinking Time

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### Rethinking Access

Changing the direction of acquisitions and primary use of space has had a positive impact on student use.

New study rooms were available at the start of Winter Quarter 2019. Students expressed excitement over additional private study spaces and the libraries have seen an increase in traffic and room usage.

Faculty approved of the new study rooms but were concerned about the reduction in physical collections required to make the changes possible.

Finding a balance between providing access to appropriate resources is a challenge as patrons request immediate, continuous access but decry the loss of physical books.

### Suny Library

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### Rethinking the Library Space

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