Library renovation complete

Library patrons will have noticed major changes lately. Over Spring Break UITS and Facilities worked together to install 36 new all-in-one Lenovo computers at desks that are identical to ones in the Hammes Information Commons. These new workstations are spread out over the 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors of the Schurz Library and will give students more places to use computers as well as more collaborative desk space on campus.

Over Spring Break UITS worked tirelessly to install the 36 computers on the 3 floors of the library. Beverly Church, Executive Director of UITS at IU South Bend says, “I think that students will love the new furniture and all-in-one computers.”

UITS purchased the 36 computers, 3 printers and all the desk furniture for the project but this was only part of a larger initiative. In the past year UITS has added flat panel displays in the group work rooms on the 4th and 5th floors of the library as well as color printing and 3 additional Macintosh computers on the first floor in the Media Commons. UITS has also worked to ensure that wireless access is available in all parts of the Schurz Library by installing additional hot spots throughout.

“The expansion of the Information Commons to the 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors of the library is the capstone of the UITS and Library and Media Services partnership of this past year,” says Van Gordon, “Vicki Bloom and the librarians are wonderful partners. I look forward to continuing our successful partnership and providing access to technology for our students.”

Vicki Bloom, Dean of Library and Media Services worked closely with Beth Van Gordon, the Chief Information Officer for IU South Bend to expand the availability of computing workstations on campus. “IU South Bend students have continually requested additional digital connectivity,” says Bloom, “Adding workstations in clusters on the different floors gives our users greater flexibility and opportunities to collaborate.”

Upon her arrival in 2010 Dean Bloom found that publicly available computers in the library were less than other peer institutions. She worked together with Beth Van Gordon to create a plan that would allow greater flexibility in how and where students could work.
As Director of Web Services it is my great pleasure to introduce IU South Bend’s new and improved web site.

For those of you who don’t know, the project team, the temporary web technicians, IU-PUI HelpNet, the Office of Communications and Marketing and many others worked tirelessly for months to migrate over 12,870 files to the new web content management system (WCMS). We also trained over 198 users in the use of the newer, easier to manage web system.

Why did we switch to WCMS? Excellent question! The switch was made to empower those who maintain websites with the necessary tools that will simplify their day to day activities. This means that people can focus more on their content and worry less about how to use the tools to make their website happen. The new system uses a person’s own IU Network ID which improves accountability.

Our website now has the ability to stay current. Another feature that the WCMS system provides is the ability for multiple people to be assigned to various sites. This means that instead of having a single person maintaining information, departments and units can have as many people as they wish to update their information. With this change and the new tools, we have the makings of perpetually refreshed content.

In closing, please be aware that if you want to know more or need a refresher on WCMS, check out: https://www.iusb.edu/webdev/

Thank you.

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**My favorites ... Top 5 (iOS) Apps from Professor Bruce Spitzer**

1. **To-do Pro** This is my task list. It’s easy to learn, easy to manage, and allows me to make lists and categorize them as needed.

2. **Kindle** No need to buy a separate device when the iPad can do it all! I checked out Kindle software and Nook software for iPad and chose Kindle for one single reason: it has more options of font sizes than Nook. I use more than one, so having variety is good.

3. **Dropbox** If you don’t know Dropbox for your desktops and laptops, Dropbox for your iPad, iPhone, and Android devices, and Dropbox.com, well, I’m guessing you’re still carrying around a flash drive. Dropbox, a device-based/cloud-based file synchronization system has come to the rescue more times than I can count.

4. **Lose It!** Lose It! is a weight management app. It doesn’t “do” anything other than give you a place to keep track of calories eaten and energy expended. But if you are faithful about following an eating plan, Lose It! is a great app for helping you stick to the plan.

5. **Facebook** OK, so who’s reading this who doesn’t know about Facebook? The Facebook app for iPad is clean, easy to navigate, and pretty bug-free.

6+. And then there’s AccuWeather, iTunes, Words with Friends, YouTube, iBooks (books AND PDFs!), Google Earth, Flipboard (great magazine article aggregator), MacLife (everything Mac), Trainyard (my only real game), Photogene (fun, quick photo editing), Quickoffice ($19.99, but worth it to edit Word, Excel, and PowerPoint files, plus it interfaces with Dropbox!), Garageband, Shazam (want to know the name of that song you hear playing?), and Dragon Dictation (near-perfect speech-to-text). Oh, and Mail. I check my email incessantly with my iPad . . .
Meet the staff ...

Craig Schroeder, Operations Programmer.

My daily duties include running the campus update, trying to help insure that all IU South Bend campus-related data is correct and up to date. I’m also charged with making sure that this data is backed up on a regular basis and that it is securely stored.

I also design, code, test and support departmental and campus databases. A few databases that I’ve worked on extensively include those for Parking Services and the campus Threat Assessment Team. Right now, I’m working on a database for Housing and Residential Life.

What do you like about working in IT at IU South Bend?
Working close to where I live in an academic environment.

What brought you to IU South Bend?
I answered a classified ad in the South Bend Tribune.

What do you like to do in your free time (hobbies, interests)?
I’m a part-time musician, a record/CD collector, and a live music enthusiast. I bike, walk and run regularly. I’m interested and do reading in a variety of areas including science, philosophy, religion, GLBT issues, and pop music history.

Can you tell us something about yourself that might surprise others?
I’ve eaten plenty of pizzas, but have never had one delivered.

IT works to keep your data safe

SB UITS has a procedure and policy in place which addresses the retirement of devices that store University data. In the case of computers, laptops, iPads, and the like, we ask that IU owned/purchased devices be returned to us so that we can properly dispose of them. In case you have been wondering what we do with these devices exactly, UITS security procedures are amongst the most stringent.

First, hard drives are wiped with a utility that overwrites the data on the drive with random characters. The software utility makes several passes and complies with wiping requirements used by the Department of Defense. On the final pass, the drive is filled with the character “0”. Then, a special hard drive viewer is used to manually inspect the drive to assure that the wiping process was successful. This process ensures beyond any doubt that any data that resided on the hard drive is gone forever.

In the event that a hard drive has failed and cannot be electronically wiped, the drive is magnetically wiped and then physically destroyed, rendering the physical media unusable/unreadable.

Once a device is sanitized of any potential data, it is redistribute if deemed to still offer utility, sold as surplus, or recycled through reputable recycling centers.

The number of devices that contain permanent storage media is growing. These days, certain laser printers, multifunction devices, copy machines, and mobile devices can contain hard drives which may result in the storage of University data. As such, we ask that departments that are retiring any device that has handed University data, to contact UITS so that we can assure that any data storage has been properly addressed. Please also consider what may be contained on flash media or CD’s before simply tossing them in the trash.
And now you know.
How do you use information technology in your work?

I’ve been a librarian at IU South Bend for thirty-two years and have seen the library go from completely tangible formats to almost the opposite. Advances in information technology have been both a blessing and a curse. Information technology has increased the amount of information available for everyone in ways that no one imagined but at the same time has made false and misleading information readily available as well.

I use IT in two basic ways in my work. All of my library works uses some kind of technology. The catalog is online, all of our journal indexes are online and most of our reference sources are electronic as well. So answering even a simple “Do you have this book?” involves using technology. Teaching Q110 involves technology as well through Oncourse and email communication. The most challenging aspect of using technology as a librarian is teaching the students how to analyze and evaluate the validity and usefulness of whatever information they find.

Tell us about a positive experience you have recently had with UITS (IT).

I have positive experiences with IT personnel every time I work at the Hammes Information Commons in the Library. I’m talking about my experiences with the Lab Consultants. They are great! The lab consultants in the IC deal with a wide range of issues from helping get laptops connected, assisting students in the Adaptive Technology Room, to explaining how to make a table in Excel for the fifteenth time to the same student.

They are friendly, knowledgeable, helpful and patient.

Pc or Mac? PC

What technology can you not live without and why?

Probably my cell phone. If you would have asked me a few years ago I would not have said my cell phone but now I get nervous if I leave my office without it. I know that if I really want to get in touch with my children they will respond to a text but not to a phone call. I just wish the keyboard was larger and my eyes were better.

How will your relationship with technology change in the next 5 years?

I hope to have a better relationship with technology in the future. It seems that I’ve been too demanding, too needy and too pushy and have taken much for granted. In the next five years I think I will be using more interactive video in teaching, reference work, working with students and at home. (I hope to have better service from my home by then!) I think we will have something like Skype everywhere!

Updates and Upgrades

WIRELESS

The Purdue Tech Building recently had wireless access points installed. Multiple WAP’s were installed on both floors.

CELEBRATE VENDOR DAY

Dell, CDW-G, and AT&T visiting campus this Thursday, March 22 from 10am – 2pm in the University Grill.

Want to learn more from vendors who provide special discounts for IU students, faculty, and staff? Reps will be on hand March 22nd at the University Grill (located in the main administration building) from 10:00 - 2:00.

IU’s IT sponsors make possible a range of conferences, events, and professional development and networking opportunities for the university community throughout the school year. In particular, we’d like to thank Apple, AT&T, Dell, CDW-G, and Matrix Integration for their support.

FACULTY AND STAFF:
TAKE WORKSHOPS FREE THIS SPRING

For the spring 2012 semester, you can register for UITS IT Training workshops at no charge.

The spring workshop schedule is now online. Be sure to sign up as soon as possible at: http://ittraining.iu.edu

Need a specially scheduled workshop for your department or faculty/staff group of 10 or more? Would you like to have us teach IT skills to your students, so you can concentrate on the bigger picture? Request sessions at no charge: http://ittraining.iu.edu/request

Questions? Contact UITS IT Training office at IUPUI. Email: ittraining@iupui.edu or call: (317) 274-7383