

Global Systems Science: Library Space and Services

DRAFT – March, 2018

Philosophy

The VT Libraries imagine a commons in the Global Systems Science (GSS) building that support research and education and serves as an intellectual ecotone: a zone where several different ecosystems overlap, creating an environment for diverse and complex exchange dynamics. We see a science research commons as a similar system, bringing together research and education activities across a wide array of disciplines, programs, resources, and technologies in the GSS building. Librarians will serve a lead role in nurturing interdisciplinary dynamics, the exchange and transmission of ideas, and creation of new knowledge products.

Proposed attributes of the Science Research Commons (SRC):

- Offices / work spaces for embedded librarians, technologists, and staff (number of people to be determined)
- Open work area for GSS student and faculty groups and individuals (size to be determined)
- Flexible classroom / seminar space / event space (ca. 40-50 people)
- Other faculty- and student-facing areas:
 - Data visualization room
 - 3-D printing room
 - Virtual communications room
 - Small computer lab that provides specialized software
 - Technology Sandbox for emerging tools and software (online, not a physical presence)

Services will include:

- Research Data Support (management, visualization, etc.)
- Collaborative Authoring and Proposal Support (software tools and platforms)
- Citation and Research Impact Support
- Publishing and Archiving Support
- Instructional Support, e.g. course projects, digital / data / information literacies, research skills, project team support
- Content creation (for instructional and scholarly content held in digital libraries)

Value propositions:

- The Libraries' services and resources being an integrated partner in the GSS destination area
- Highly skilled information, data, and technology professionals embedded with GSS research and education programs
- Designated workspace for GSS-related students that is close to their programs and classes
- Space that can be customized for specific GSS needs
- The SRC becomes a neutral zone that promotes cross pollination of targeted disciplines

Space allocation:

- To be determined