

Defining Learning Commons

The learning commons philosophy is a means of increasing student engagement and improving student achievement. The learning commons promotes personalization, inquiry, and the integration of technology through the implementation of innovative curricular design and assessment. This space, which is a blend of physical and virtual environments, transforms teaching and learning by allowing both staff and students to co-create knowledge. Within the learning commons, technology supports the construction of new understandings by the learner rather than the learner passively consuming information. Calgary Board of Education

We define a learning commons as a place that fosters the development of the twenty-first century scholar and practitioner by integrating the library and other campus student support units. It is a multifunctional, flexible space that deeply integrates the library into the lives of students in collaboration with other campus departments and services. It is a neutral space that brings partners together to support learning initiatives. It is a workplace for students that may include formal and informal areas. It is a location for collaborative work, knowledge generation, and innovation. Purdue University

“Keechlin, Rosenfeld and Loertscher define it as “a learning “space” that is both physical and virtual – a place to experiment, practice, celebrate, learn, work and play. Gino Bondi, in his blog post [Our Learning Commons: One “How To” for 21st Century Learning](#) says that “It is a transformation that calls for physical, virtual and, pedagogical changes as well as a shift in mindset for all players.” Alberta School Libraries Council

A Learning Commons is a flexible and responsive approach to helping schools focus on learning collaboratively. It expands the learning experience, taking students and educators into virtual spaces beyond the walls of a school. A Learning Commons is a vibrant, whole-school approach, presenting exciting opportunities for collaboration among teachers, teacher-librarians and students. Within a Learning Commons, new relationships are formed between learners, new technologies are realized and utilized, and both students and educators prepare for the future as they learn new ways to learn. And best of all, as a space traditionally and naturally designed to facilitate people working together, a school’s library provides the natural dynamics for developing a Learning Commons. Together For Learning

A Learning Commons is... A place of teaching and learning, group work, collaboration, professional development, creativity, change, inquiry, communication and community.

And is not... A place designed primarily for finding information, a place where students only come to use the copy machine, a place where the “librarian” is in charge, a place where students are greeted with rules as they enter, a place where bookshelves with outdated material fill open space.

[Http://www.slideshare.net/valeriediggs/from-library-to-learning-commonsnyslideshare#btnPrevious](http://www.slideshare.net/valeriediggs/from-library-to-learning-commonsnyslideshare#btnPrevious)