Suite Dreams
Caring For The Past In The Present:
History Collections Maximizes Use Of New Penthouse Suite
Laupus Library, East Carolina University, Greenville NC

As Recognized by Spring 2002

Staff and Client Needs
Office Proximity
Offices separate from collections

Space
• Reading Room
• Additional Office Space
• Work/Preservation Space
• Special Events Space
• Display Space

Collection Needs
• Stacks Space
• Temperature and Humidity Controlled Stacks
• Initial Processing Room

Pre-Bond Referendum
(November 2000)
• Discussions with architects - mid to late 19th century style
• Exploration - Construction of temperature and humidity controlled space
• History Collections Reading Room - Plans not carried out because plans for new building began

Post-Referendum Planning
(Plans for new building)
• Previous Plans - Elements incorporated into new plans
• Exploration - of other campuses for ideas
• Research - Search to find suitable interior fittings and to determine current collection space recommendations
• Discussions with Architects
• Plans for 5-room History Suite
• Plans for closed stacks and lab
• Plans for adjacent circulating stacks
• Plans for adjacent special events space with terrace

Move-In Status on May 30, 2006
• Reading room - Lacked ceiling tiles, flooring, and painted walls and trim
• Plans book stacks - Lacked archival-depth shelving
• Offices - Lacked file cabinets and blinds
• Workroom - Lacked shelving and work counters
• Special events space - Screen incorrectly installed

Structural Surprises
• Construction and delivery delays
• The history suite was not finished for the building dedication on September 22
• Two faculty members are still in study rooms as of October 10 because their offices are not habitable
• Water Leaks
• Lighting required rewiring
• Acoustics - Sound from the special events space annoys clients on the third and fourth floors

Use of Special Events Space
• Two Medical History Interest Group lectures have been held with encouragingly high attendance
• Several Library and University events and one city government event have been held

Displays/Exhibits
• Display cases of colorful history of health care book jackets
• Country Doctor Museum photography display
• Upcoming ALA exhibit in spring 2007 “Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America’s Women Physicians”

Collaboration
• Medical Foundation of ECU
• Interior Design Program
• School of Nursing
• ALA exhibit includes ECU academic library, ECU and hospital employees, and public library

Increased University and Community Interest
• Many people have admired the wooden floor in the reading room
• People are hearing about the new History Collections Suite and look forward to using it

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Credits
Dr. Dorothy Spencer, Library Director
Charlotte Critcher, History Collections Assistant
Jason Cottle, Library Graphic Designer/Artist Illustrator
Paul Gianino, Cabinet Maker
Cliff Hollis, East Carolina University Photographer
Donna McLees, former director of the Medical Foundation of East Carolina University
Staff of the Laupus Library

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