



FROM TRADITIONAL TO CONTEMPORARY

Transforming a traditional school library into a contemporary space catering to multiple learning styles doesn't have to cost the earth, as FAYE JAMIESON tells us.

With a bit of research, ingenuity and creative shopping, our traditional library became a vibrant contemporary learning commons.

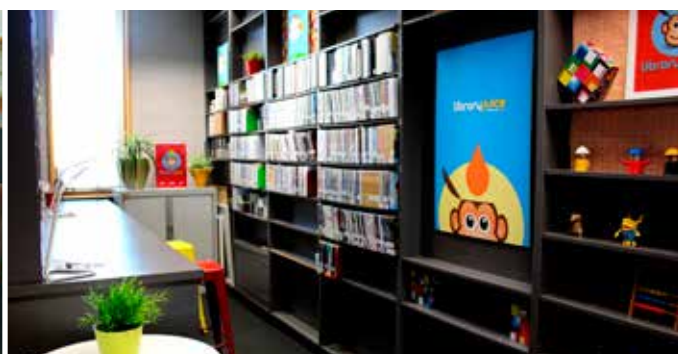
As has happened in many schools, the introduction of individual laptops means fewer classes using the library for all of their research needs. With the new flexible contemporary learning areas being created at our school, it became obvious that we needed a point of difference to entice classes back to the library.

Eighteen months ago, the library at Killester College had four bays of outdated non-fiction resources, an under-utilised reference shelf, two traditional class-size research areas and a reading room. With reorganisation and the purchase of some contemporary furniture, we now have a totally different library of four spaces, each with a different learning focus, and a more curriculum-focused collection.

Our students provided the input and ideas on how they wanted to use these spaces. Their requests were surprisingly easy to meet: more and different seating options, spaces to work together in small groups, and the option of silent spaces away from the busy general library. Incorporating ideas from refurbished university and council libraries into our design, we made creative and flexible use of spaces our guiding principle.

The results:

A Conferencing Space including three 'teched-up' booths for group work, an informal seating area and round table groupings. This area promotes collaboration.



A Project Space with large tables nestled between non-fiction bays providing easy access to print resources. Adding bench seating gives a relaxed option while allowing the storage of topic tubs beneath them.

An Instruction Space of large tables with a screen, Apple TV and speakers enables teacher-directed instruction or student presentations.

The Reading Room has couches, bean bags and a television for screening book trailers and student projects. This area doubles as a theatre to view DVDs.

Quietly Creative and Quietly Collaborative areas provide spaces for students who want a silent working environment. Downsizing of outdated audiovisual equipment, adding a few stools, removing some shelving and adding funky lamps totally transformed this space into our Quietly Creative Zone.

Our Quietly Collaborative Space was created by repurposing a spare office to provide for collaboration/conferencing of small groups of students and/or teachers, or a space for students wishing to study in silence.

In a short space of time on a small budget, we have revitalised the library as a contemporary learning space catering to a wide variety of learning styles and activities. Coupled with our increased online presence through Pocket Library, we have realised our aspiration to be a complete contemporary learning resource. 🌱

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