Curated Commons: The Maryland Model

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Academic Libraries are Campus Assets

Traditionally,
first for physical collections
second for the building, the real estate asset

adoption of digitally delivered resources
has eventuated …

...a reversal

The secondary real estate asset,
has become primary

library facilities are valuable:

1. size
2. campus location
3. building infrastructure
4. cyber-infrastructure

Changed Service Models
to meet the reallocation of collection space

since the 1990s, the library *commons* model has been developed

for example:

1. learning *commons*
2. science *commons*
3. research *commons*
4. scholars' *commons*

Pros & Cons of Current Model

ADVANTAGES

- keeps building within library control

- meets large campus population user needs

  - democratically provides space for:

    - technology
    - study
    - collaboration

Pros & Cons of Current Model

CHALLENGES

- requires upfront investment

- does not necessarily support specialized needs

- fixed not flexible walls

Why is this Model Risky?

Upfront investment may only have short-term relevance…

…technology changes at fast pace…

…by the time funding is secured and construction is complete technology may be outdated

Why should this Model Evolve?

Research and teaching continues to evolve…

…towards specialization…

…iterative research questions & methods…

…and small science

BIG SCIENCE

- well funded by national agencies

- multi-year projects that justify fixed labs

- cyber-infrastructure initiatives are disciplinary or nationally scoped

- standardized data practices that facilitate data sharing (scholarly communication)

What is *small science*?

- hypothesis-driven research led by a single principal investigator, in which progress and reward are contingent on generating and analysing one's own data

- research is done by graduate students collecting data sets, managing and processing data in the course of the project

- limited research funding

- short-term use of scientific instruments

Why Should Libraries Pay Attention?

- small science researchers span many fields producing many different forms of highly valuable data

- over the long term, small science is expected to produce more data than BIG SCIENCE

- cyber-infrastructure is lacking

- increasingly seeking assistance with their data problems

small scientists & small librarians create BIG RESULTS

- small scientists need assistance with data management, curation, and sustained accessibility

- data management should be organized up front, otherwise it is very expensive and inefficient

- demonstrations of library infrastructure early in the research is essential to building lasting partnerships

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What is Needed?

Flexible spaces…

…focusing on ephemeral instantiation…

… building infrastructure stability…

…cyber-infrastructure accessibility…

…cost savings of low overhead…

…facility to rent or borrow cutting edge technical instrumentation

The Maryland Model:

Libraries supporting broad academic discourse, that is, diverse activities that have short-term physical life

conferences, symposia, public education
gaming, competitions, hack-a-thons
rapid prototyping, fabrication, charettes
performance testing, small science

Curated Commons: The Maryland Model

sustained transformation of library facilities, cyber- and building infrastructures…

…flexible reconfigurable space with…

…cutting edge technology…

…sustainable funding streams

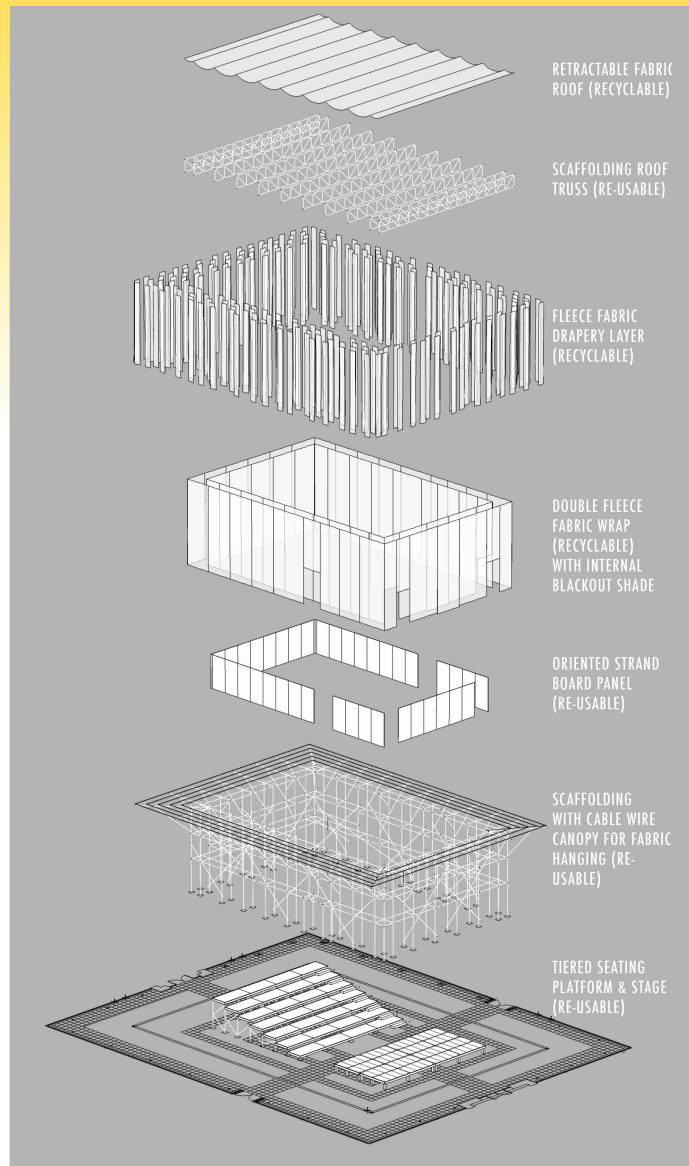UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Library Building Infrastructure

- electrical, telecommunications, data access
  - plumbing
  - high ceilings and natural light
  - smooth load-bearing floors
  - loading docks
  - elevators

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Like a live theatre or film studio,

the basic structure,

when not in service to a particular script or instantiation,

will house the basic infrastructure and hook-ups for the design to come.

Theater Design

Labels on diagram (top to bottom):
- RETRACTABLE FABRIC ROOF (RECYCLABLE)
- SCAFFOLDING ROOF TRUSS (RE-USABLE)
- FLEECE FABRIC DRAPERY LAYER (RECYCLABLE)
- DOUBLE FLEECE FABRIC WRAP (RECYCLABLE) WITH INTERNAL BLACKOUT SHADE
- ORIENTED STRAND BOARD PANEL (RE-USABLE)
- SCAFFOLDING WITH CABLE WIRE CANOPY FOR FABRIC HANGING (RE-USABLE)
- TIERED SEATING PLATFORM & STAGE (RE-USABLE)

demonstrating how temporary structures can be added to a permanent floor plan.

Willow Theater / Tim Lai Architect + Brad Steinmetz Stage Design, *archdaily.com*, 10/23/2013.

Exploded Diagram

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Pop Up

Definition: adj., used to describe a machine, book, etc. that has parts that push out from a surface or from inside;

used to describe a shop, restaurant, etc. that operates temporarily and only for a short period when it is likely to get a lot of customers

Pop Up: Curated Commons

Attributes:

- enclosures are put-up quickly by design

- short-term leased specialized technology

- corporate sponsorship of events and in-kind gifts of technology are funding streams

Pop Up: Modularity

Modular units can be joined together or positioned separately, depending on the need and task; create a meeting room or position separately to create a semi-private place where one can work undisturbed.

Designed by Dymitr Malcew.

Brouns, B. "Break out in treehouse-inspired furniture," *soyouknowbetter.com*, 2/3/2014

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Pop Up: Library

Building within a building, part of an 18-week series of events exploring how libraries can remain relevant – even essential – resources.

Designed by Morag Myerscough & Luke Morgan — The Pavilion, Library of Birmingham.

Wilkes, B. "Lobby pavilion keeps Birmingham library at the forefront of debate…," *we-heart.com,* 10/2/2013

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Pop Up: Hotel

This cabin made from scaffolding is one of 22 temporary hotel rooms that popped up around Mannheim, Germany, as part of the Hotel Shabby Shabby event for the city's Theater der Welt festival.

The Hedonist was designed by Portuguese architects Nuno Pimenta and Frederico Martins.

"Hotel Shabby Shabby's 22 pop-up guest rooms included a recycled riverside cabin," *de zeen magazine*, 10/12/2014.
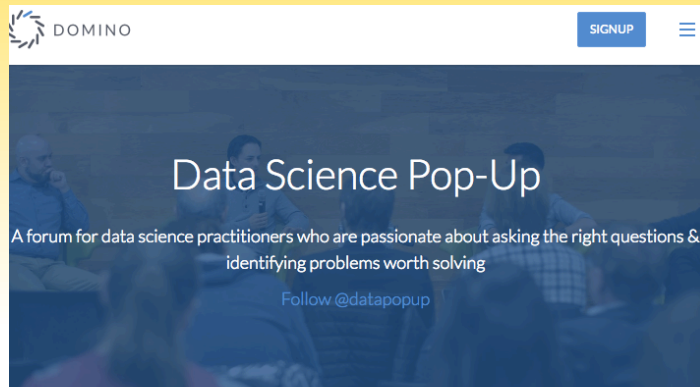
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Pop Up Makerspace: Harvard

Presented by Harvard Graduate School of Education at the MIT Media Lab, 10/10/2015

Pop-Up Makerspace: The Future of Learning Laboratory

"At our pop-up makerspace , you'll have the opportunity to…open up new possibilities…combining high-tech and low-tech explorations in art, science and engineering
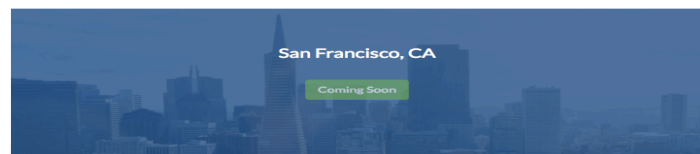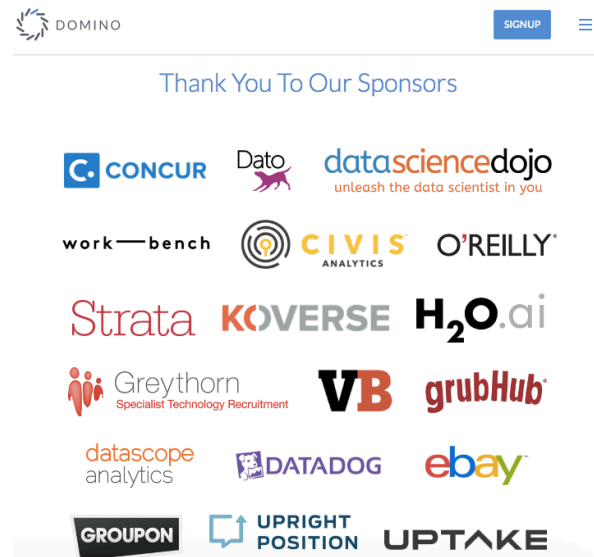
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Pop Up: Virtual Conferences

Demonstrates corporate sponsorship,
https://www.dominodatalab.com/datapopup

Pop Up Labs: University of Chicago

A lab-like environment to facilitate conversation between research faculty and other cultural thinkers. Each Pop-up Lab acts as a catalyst, bringing together a wide variety of disciplines and vocations, to engage in lively discussion on particular topic.

Pop Up: Engineering Labs

Competitive energy rises as teams peer into each other's pop-up laboratories to get first glimpses of robot rivals.

DARPA Robotics Challenge, "Move-in day for the DRC Finals," *Robohub.org,* 6/2/2015.

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