UWF Emerald Coast
Technology Fee - Systemic Project Proposal
FY 2010-2011

Emerald Coast Learning Commons

This is a proposal to create a technology-rich collaborative learning environment at UWF Emerald Coast Library. The total one-time cost of this proposal is $60,007.

1. **Description of initiative/investment to enhance instructional technology.**

    a. UWF Emerald Coast Library has two group study rooms. Each study room is 12 x 13 feet and houses a table and six molded-plastic chairs with a blackboard on the wall. This proposal would enhance students' ability to work collaboratively by installing a 40-inch monitor in each group study room along with networking accessories and more comfortable task chairs.
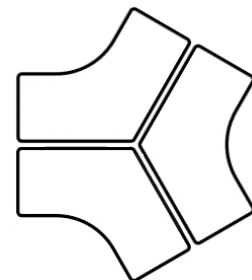

Current Group Study Room

    b. UWF Emerald Coast Library currently has 20 desktop computers for UWF student use. Half of these are in single-user carrels with little room to spread out notebooks and other materials and no space to share with another student. The other half are on trapezoidal tables with more workspace, but the shape of the tables still makes collaborative work difficult. This proposal would add 12 more desktop computers (donated by the Emerald Coast Computer Lab) and place all the computers on 120-degree tables with comfortable task chairs, giving students more room for their study materials and the ability to work with a partner on projects and assignments. Additional tables purchased under this proposal would not have computers placed on them, allowing students to sit with a laptop checked out from the library (or their own laptops) and study alone or with a friend. Additional task chairs will be purchased to accommodate two users at every third workstation. To allow for optimal placement of workstations, 10 data/power poles will be installed and supplied with Ethernet ports and electrical outlets.

120-degree table

Tables arranged in a triad

c. UWF Emerald Coast Library currently has three laptops available for students. Because we have so few, we currently do not allow overnight check-out and the laptops must be used in the library. This proposal would add 9 laptops that students will be able to use in the upgraded group study rooms, at open tables throughout the library and at home for overnight use - meeting students' needs for flexible, portable technology.

Dell E6410 Laptop

d. UWF Emerald Coast students cannot currently take advantage of Argonet printing services when they are in the library. This proposal would add a network printer on the Argonet system in the library so students can use their printing credits.

2. **Description of how initiative has a college/unit-wide or university-wide scope.**

The UWF Emerald Coast Library serves every student taking classes on the Joint Campus, Combs Campus, Eglin Facility and REEF, as well as the many online students from Okaloosa and Walton counties plus UWF students living in the western part of Santa Rosa County (particularly Navarre). The library had 43,180 visits in FY 2009-10, primarily students doing research and working on assignments. These students will benefit from the enhanced technology, the improved capability for collaboration with their fellow students and the opportunity to borrow laptops overnight to work on their assignments.

3. **Description of alignment with UWF Strategic Plan.**

The University of West Florida's current mission statement (2008-2012) establishes a commitment to "empower each individual we serve with the knowledge and opportunity to contribute responsibly and creatively to a complex world." This project would directly empower our students to seek out knowledge and to contribute both responsibly and creatively by providing them with the technological tools that they need to support their education and production of scholarly works while here at UWF. In regards to UWF's enduring values, this program increases the quality of services available to our students and helps to shape a caring learning environment that provides the tools necessary for the student's individual development. In addition, this proposal is in direct alignment with several specific portions of the University of West Florida Strategic Priorities and Measurable Achievements (2008-2012), including:

- *Strategic Focus: High Quality Academic Programs*
  The Emerald Coast Learning Commons proposal will provide students with technology and collaborative opportunities that can assist them while they are engaged in the active learning that is part of the University's strategic goals.

- *Strategic Focus: Academic and Student Support Services*
  The Emerald Coast Learning Commons proposal will increase the quality of academic and student support services by providing students with increased access to laptops and increased opportunities to collaborate with their classmates.

4. **Description of benefits provided.**

According to Geoffrey Freeman (2005):

> The library is the only centralized location where new and emerging information technologies can be combined with traditional knowledge resources in a user-focused, service-rich environment that supports today's social and educational patterns of learning, teaching, and research. Whereas the Internet has tended to isolate people, the library, as a physical place, has done just the opposite. Within the institution, as a reinvigorated, dynamic learning resource, the library can … become the centerpiece for establishing the intellectual community and scholarly enterprise. (p. 3)

The Emerald Coast Learning Commons proposal will provide just such a benefit by providing collaborative workspaces supported by state-of-the-art technology.

With the purchase of 9 Dell laptops and an in-kind donation of 12 Dell workstations (from the Emerald Coast Computer Lab), the computing capacity of the library will increase from 23 computers to 44. The addition of two 40-inch Sony monitors with network accessories and 12 comfortable task chairs will allow small groups of students to work together on class projects and presentations that are increasingly technology-dependent. The addition of 39 work tables (angled to facilitate collaborative work) and 52 task chairs will allow students to work comfortably, singly or together, with all the workspace they require. The implementation of an Argonet printer will give students the ability to tap their printing credits and take advantage of reduced printing costs. The expansion of the laptop collection will enable us to check laptops out overnight so students can work on assignments at home.

5. **Describe how success/impact will be measured.**

Success of the Emerald Coast Learning Commons will be measured by increased usage data, and quantitative and qualitative feedback. Statistics will be measured of library visits, usage of the group study rooms and desktop workstations, and laptop checkouts. Quantitative and qualitative user survey evaluation of spaces and technology will provide additional feedback for improvement and future expansion of the Emerald Coast Learning Commons.

6. **Detailed Description of Resources Required including Hardware and Software and Personnel Costs.**

The table below specifies the costs for this project. No personnel costs are associated with the project beyond contracting for electrical/Ethernet installation.

Location	Item	Item Cost	Qty	Total Cost
Library (First Floor)	120-degree Tables with 18x36 Privacy Screens	581	39	22,659
	Task Chairs - rolling, with thick-cushion seat	140	52	7,280
	Data / Power Poles	350	10	3,500
	Electrical/Ethernet Installation Services	8,000	1	8,000
	APC Back-UPS 1250VA	90	12	1,080
	Network Patch Cables	2	24	48
	HP Laserjet P4515x Printer (for Argonet printing)	2,582	1	2,582
	Dell Latitude E6410 Laptops w/Deep Freeze license (for checkout)	1,246	9	11,214
Group Study Rooms	40" Sony monitor / TV	880	2	1,760
	Task Chairs - rolling, with thick-cushion seat	140	12	1,680
	Peerless TV Wall Mounts	80	2	160
	HDMI Cables	13	2	26
	SVGA Cables	9	2	18
Total Cost				60,007

7. **Describe how implementation will proceed.**

The materials listed above will be ordered as soon as funds are available. Electrical/Ethernet installation will be scheduled when there will be little disruption to students (possibly at Intersession). All computer equipment will be set up and installed by Emerald Coast technicians. 40-inch monitors will be installed with the help of Northwest Florida State College Physical Plant personnel. When the furniture arrives there will be no more than a one week delay in assembling and placing it. No more than one week will be needed to install the Argonet Printer and 40-inch monitors after they arrive. No more than two weeks will be needed to format the laptops and catalog them for circulation so that they can be loaned out to students.

8. **Plan for sustainability beyond conclusion of funding from technology fee, if applicable.**

There will be no recurring costs for hardware technology. The laptops come with a 3-year warranty. UWF Library Digital & Learning Technologies personnel will perform routine maintenance on equipment. Laptops will need to be incorporated into the 4-year replacement cycle.

9. **Resource matching commitments from other organizations/sources (identify organization and amounts), if applicable.**

    UWF Emerald Coast Computer Lab will donate 12 Dell Optiplex 780 Desktop PCs with LCD monitors.

10. **Individuals responsible for reporting and accountability, along with contact information.**

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Reference

Freeman, G. T. (2005). The library as place: Changes in learning patterns, collections, technology, and use. In *Library as place: Rethinking roles, rethinking space* [Compilation], (pp. 1-9). Washington, D.C.: Council on Library and Information Resources. Retrieved from http://www.clir.org/pubs/reports/pub129/pub129.pdf