Transforming our Library Reading Room for a Leisure Reading Collection
Suzanne Roybal
Alemany Library, Dominican University of California, San Rafael, CA 94901

Introduction
A major goal of Dominican University of California’s new strategic plan is to transform our library into a center where students can develop a life-long habit of reading. Our dash-1980’s style reading room was the ideal location to refurbish and to locate our new leisure reading collection of books and magazines.

To provide a pleasant environment for the students to relax and browse, we updated the room with new carpeting, shelving, tables, chairs, and ottomans. We wanted to change the philosophical perception of the library so the students would have an inviting place to satisfy their intellectual and entertainment needs.

We then added a leisure collection of books and magazines which is kept up-to-date with new purchases and engaging reading. Our goal is to increase the reading amongst the students and improve their college experience, and so far our project has been well-received on campus with good circulation and student usage of the reading room for browsing, reading, and studying. Our reading room is the result of what good leadership and planning can accomplish.

A Plan
• Attract students to library
• Entice students to read more
• Update reading room for current reading and studying
• Keep up-to-date with reading materials, displays and weeding

"I had an unexpectedly wonderful moment two weeks ago when in the middle of a presentation about my library’s short-range strategy I displayed a photo of Dominican’s lovely popular reading room…The change-making image from Dominican wasn’t a comparison of what money can do. That photo was a comparison of what leadership can do” (Schneider, 2009).

Budget & Purchasing
• $3000.00 annual budget
• Buy from local bookstores and online when necessary
• Purchase paperbacks when available
• Decisions based on book lists from newspapers, library journals, and patron and staff suggestions
• Ongoing weeding

From the before to the after pictures—how the reading room was transformed

Shelving & Display
• Genre designations
• Genre sticker on each book for shelving
• Labeled with LC numbers for tracking
• New books displayed on kiosk
• Books faced out to browser

Marketing
• Blog
• Updates on newly added books
• Library Thing
• "Catalog by genre" as first word in tags
• Facebook
• Suggestion Box
• Events

Results—Student Satisfaction
• Increased usage of reading room
• Improved check out of reading material
• Not only student, but also faculty and staff approval of collection

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Literature cited

Acknowledgments
I thank Gary Gorka and Amy Whiteley for their help and encouragement in this process. A. J. Real for his assistance in acquiring the necessary circulation statistics and advising me on the best way to organize the data. I would also like to thank B. L. Born for her support. Jessica Berger for assisting. Maria Danis & Jim Ludwig for the IT department, and Michelle Davis & Amanda & Brian for the Academic Resources department. Also, I would like to thank my colleagues and students for their ideas and suggestions. Finally, I want to thank Steve Polacco for his digitalization support, Michael Pujals for research assistance, A.J. Real for his assistance in acquiring the necessary circulation statistics and advising me on the best way to organize the data. I would also like to thank B. L. Born for her support. Jessica Berger for assisting. Maria Danis & Jim Ludwig for the IT department, and Michelle Davis & Amanda & Brian for the Academic Resources department. Also, I would like to thank my colleagues and students for their ideas and suggestions. Finally, I want to thank Steve Polacco for his digitalization support, Michael Pujals for research assistance, A.J. Real for his assistance in acquiring the necessary circulation statistics and advising me on the best way to organize the data. I would also like to thank B. L. Born for her support. Jessica Berger for assisting. Maria Danis & Jim Ludwig for the IT department, and Michelle Davis & Amanda & Brian for the Academic Resources department. Also, I would like to thank my colleagues and students for their ideas and suggestions. Finally, I want to thank Steve Polacco for his digitalization support, Michael Pujals for research assistance, A.J. Real for his assistance in acquiring the necessary circulation statistics and advising me on the best way to organize the data. I would also like to thank B. L. Born for her support. Jessica Berger for assisting. Maria Danis & Jim Ludwig for the IT department, and Michelle Davis & Amanda & Brian for the Academic Resources department. Also, I would like to thank my colleagues and students for their ideas and suggestions.

For further information
Please contact suzanne.roybal@dominican.edu. More information on our library can be obtained at http://www.dominican.edu/academics/resources/library. Please contact suzanne.roybal@dominican.edu. More information on our library can be obtained at http://www.dominican.edu/academics/resources/library. Please contact suzanne.roybal@dominican.edu. More information on our library can be obtained at http://www.dominican.edu/academics/resources/library.