



Technology enhanced library spaces

SCONUL webinar 20th February 2024

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Leabharlann Glucksman
Glucksman Library



Today's presentation

About the University of Limerick

Technology enhanced library spaces

Strategic context & making the case

Design & delivery

Measuring impact

Future plans

University of Limerick (UL) overview

50 years old

Total Staff 2000

Total Students 18000

Undergraduates 13000

Postgraduates 5000

10% International students

8% Disadvantaged students

6% Disability enrolments



About UL Library

Number of seats	2,200
Total floor area	16,608 sqm
Library staff	53.6 FTE
Print book stock	467,376
ebooks	483,445
eJournals	60,000
PC's/docking stations	168
Laptops for loan	96



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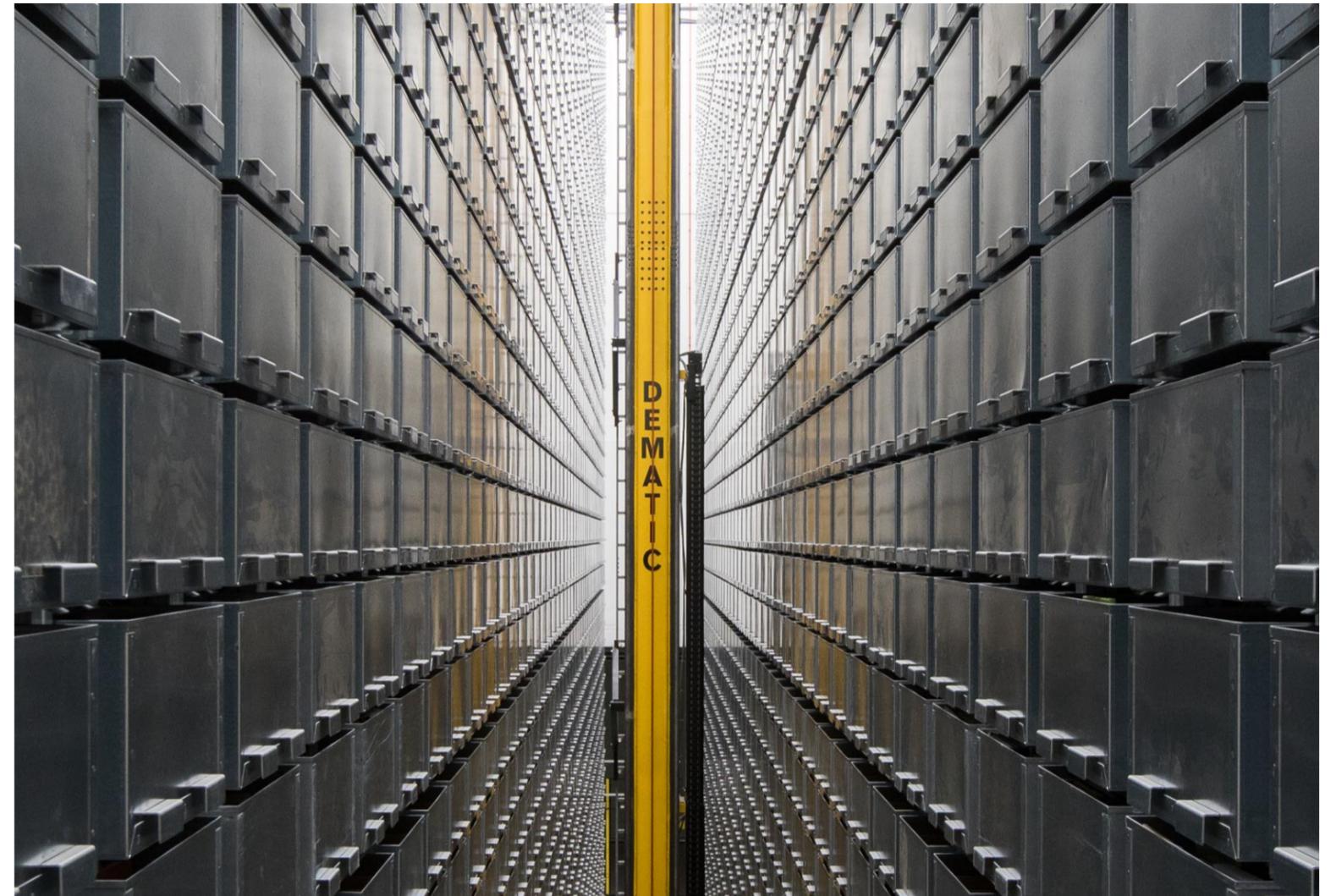
2018 building extension – €31M project

Doubled library size & seating

Technology-infused

Contains:

- Silent & collaborative study spaces
- 21 bookable rooms for students
- Faculty & postgraduate reading rooms & bookable spaces
- Special Collections & Archives
- Automated Storage & Retrieval System



ARC (Automated Reserve Collection)

500K book capacity

Less shelving on floors

Lots more new spaces

More information available at:

Video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRpa5E6bTyA

McCaffrey, C. (2021) 'Planning and implementing an automated storage and retrieval system at the University of Limerick', in Atkinson, J. ed. Technology, Change and the Academic Library. Hull, UK: Chandos Publishing. Available from: <https://dx.doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-822807-4.00014-2>. Open access version: <http://hdl.handle.net/10344/9369>



The Edge@UL Library

The hub of digital scholarship



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Greenscreen lab



Audio production labs



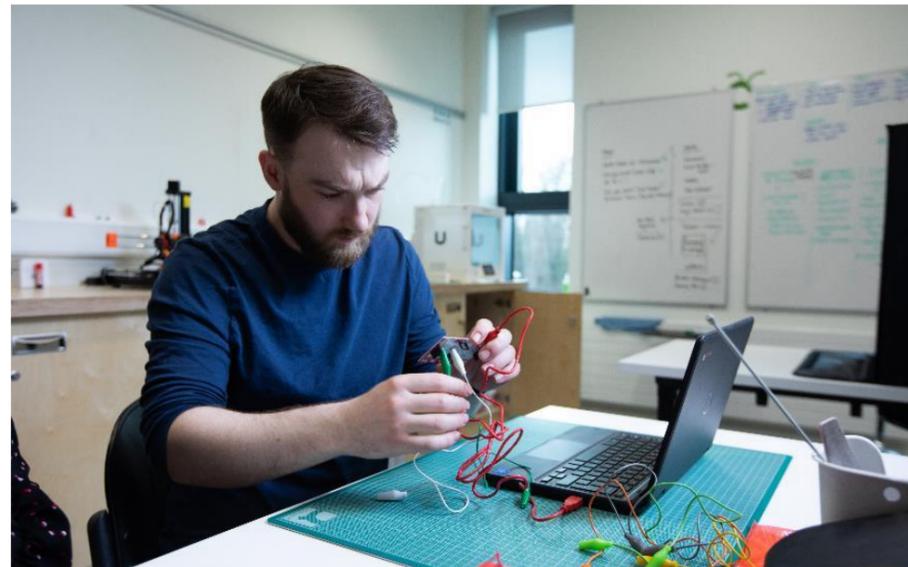
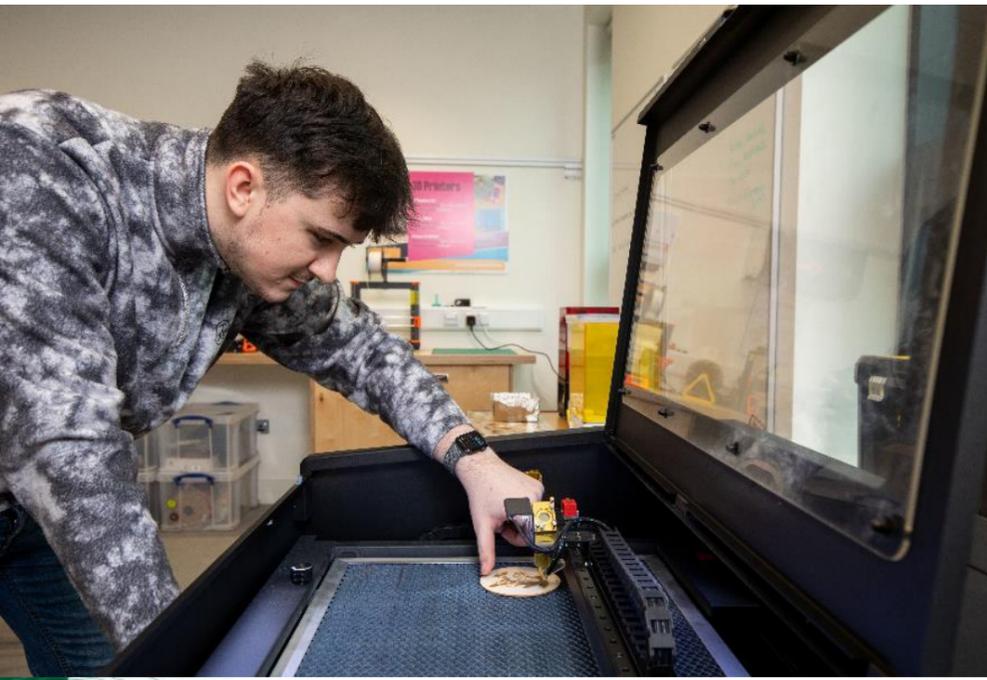
Data visualisation lab



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The Makerspace





Loanable technology



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Solo Study Booths



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Wellness



Strategic context & making the case

Emerging demand for these spaces

- Engaged pedagogy
- Collaborative, creative learning
- Digital skills

Why the library?

- Equal access to all disciplines
- Digital equity
- Library service model
- Declining focus on print = reimagining spaces
- International practice

Design & delivery

Design

National and international: The Hunt Library NCSU, Georgia Tech, Mount Royal University, University of Calgary, University of Galway Makerspace, University of Sheffield

UL: FabLab, School of Engineering

Staffing model

Project Librarian / Learning Spaces Manager

Student led (on placement & hourly paid)

Library Technician

Head of Digital Scholarship & Systems and Head of Collections & Spaces

Challenges

Staffing and upskilling

Working with Procurement, Estates, Health & Safety takes time

Tricky technology that dates quickly

Naming spaces

Faculty engagement

Measuring impact

25K **Group study room bookings**

14K **Laptop loans**

680 **Technology loans**

4000 **Makerspace: visits, queries, workshops, 3D prints**

1000 **Greenscreen and Audio Lab bookings**

740 **Rest sessions in 6 months**

92 **Solo booth bookings in 17 days!**



Future plans



Thank you

Contact details

www.ul.ie/library/library-digital-edge

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University of Calgary



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