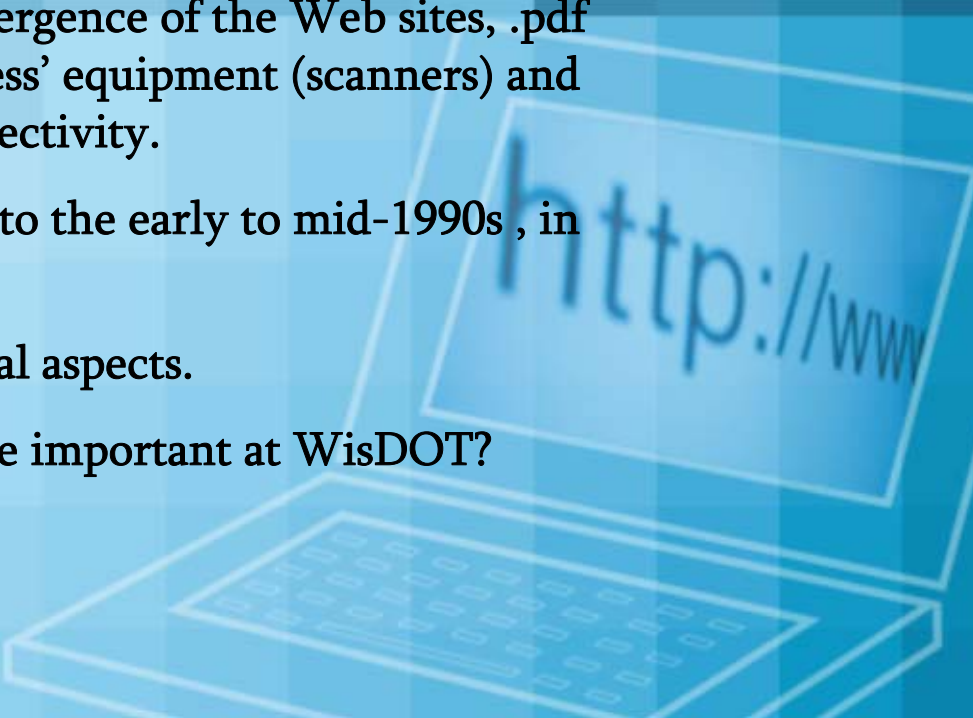


Information Commons for WisDOT

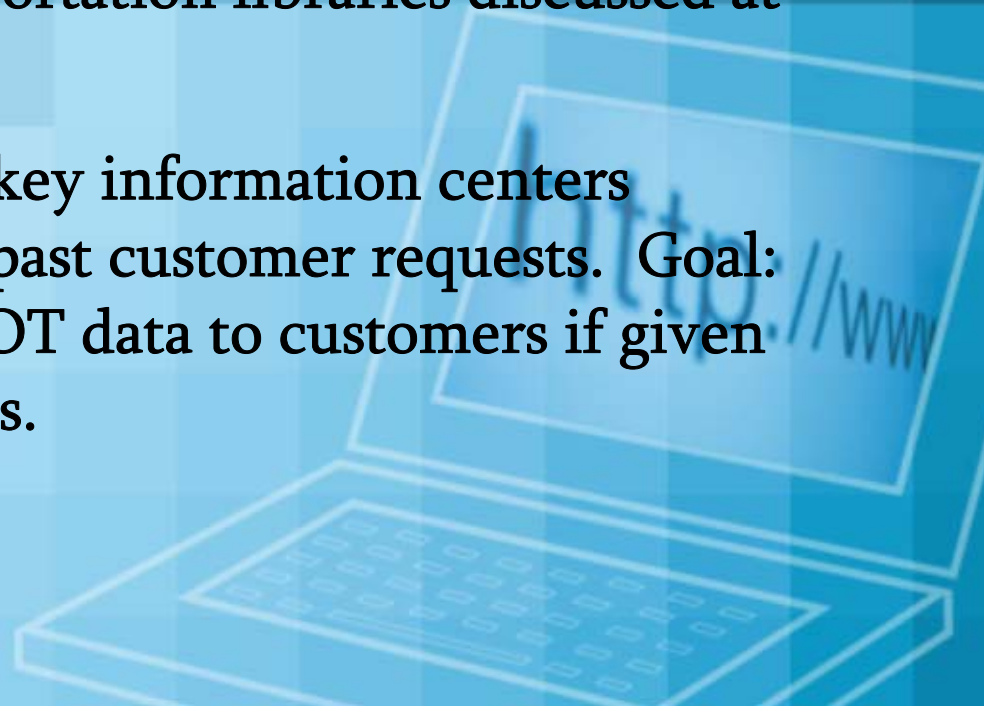
What is an 'Information Commons'?

- A shared, open space where technology, comfort, aesthetics, and expert assistance are situated in close proximity to provide a patron with an enhanced learning experience.
 - Concept derived with the emergence of the Web sites, .pdf publishing, sophisticated 'business' equipment (scanners) and proliferation of broadband connectivity.
 - Beginnings usually date back to the early to mid-1990s, in university settings.
 - Consists of virtual and physical aspects.
 - Why did this concept become important at WisDOT?
- 

Information Commons for WisDOT

Literature, information search and library surveys

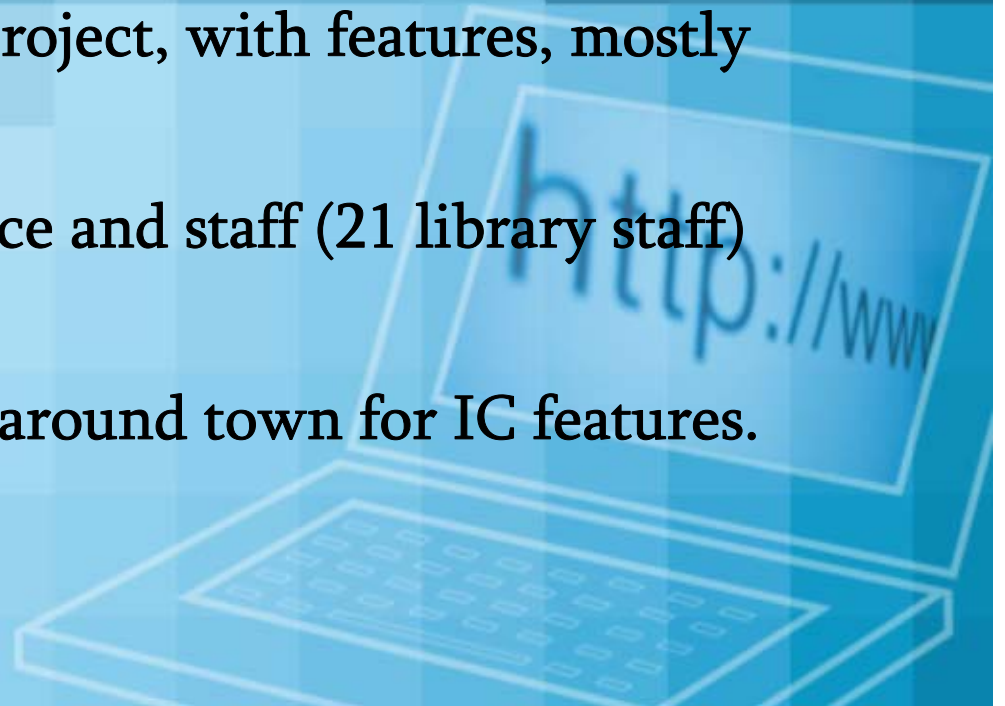
- 🖥️ Conducted research on IC projects for libraries most similar to ours.
- 🖥️ Physical design of transportation libraries discussed at national level?
- 🖥️ Virtual element: survey key information centers within WisDOT, based on past customer requests. Goal: to give access to key WisDOT data to customers if given approval from data stewards.



Information Commons for WisDOT

Literature, information search and library surveys (con't)

- 🖥️ NIST (National Institute for Standards and Technology), a federal government agency library.
- 🖥️ Recently completed IC project, with features, mostly virtual, similar to ours.
- 🖥️ Dissimilar in budget, space and staff (21 library staff) and timeline.
- 🖥️ Surveyed other libraries around town for IC features.



Information Commons for WisDOT

Conclusion: Redefinition of concept needed for WisDOT

- ❑ WisDOT could not match full-scale IC implementations, scalable model needed.
- ❑ Time frame for WisDOT definition is much shorter (1.5 to 2 years compared to 3 to 5 years)
- ❑ Redefinition includes leveraging resources through our partners (UW, DPI) and in-house expertise (interior design expertise from facilities staff, contacting data stewards)
- ❑ We can still borrow concepts and direct ideas from the full-scale IC projects we studied, and use other insights for long-range planning (3 to 5 years).
- ❑ Some concepts for an IC are already in place: support from upper management and the selection of a visible location, plus existing applications and web pages.

Information Commons for WisDOT

Space, collection size comparisons with other libraries

Library	Collection Size	Library space (sq. ft.)
WisDOT Library (Hill Farms)	37,000	1710 sq. ft.
Ebling Medical Library (UW Campus)	350,000	50,000 + sq. ft.
LRB Library (Downtown Madison)	85,000	11,500 sq. ft.
State Law Library (Downtown Madison)	140,000	35,000 sq. ft.
Energy Center Library (Madison – West side)	6,000	500 sq. ft.
Dane County Legal Resource Center (Downtown Madison)	16,000	1300 sq. ft.

Information Commons for WisDOT

Why is more space needed for WisDOT Library?

- Physical Information Commons elements will require 650 – 700 sq. ft.
- WisDOT Library disproportionate space to its collection size.
- Due to WisDOT contractions, WisDOT Library has recently absorbed:
 - District 1 Library (3,000 items processed, 1,000 added)
 - District 5 Library (2,500 items processed, 760 added)
 - District 4 Library (2,300 items processed, 900 added)
 - District 8 Library (100 items processed, 20 added)
 - Does not include DSP Academy and District 3 Libraries, which closed earlier, before WisDOT reorganization.
- Staffing issues: Truax Library, SE Region Library? Potentially 20,000 volumes to be absorbed by Central Library if libraries cease to function.
- Weeding: Thorough weeding performed twice in last five years. Not a viable option as a means to gain space (space gains would be minimal)

Information Commons for WisDOT

Donations...Donations...

- 🖨 We take the donations and dismantling of region libraries/collections as outlined in the library services TSLA.
- 🖨 Many of the donations contain unique, published and unpublished WisDOT information not previously found in any online catalog or database.

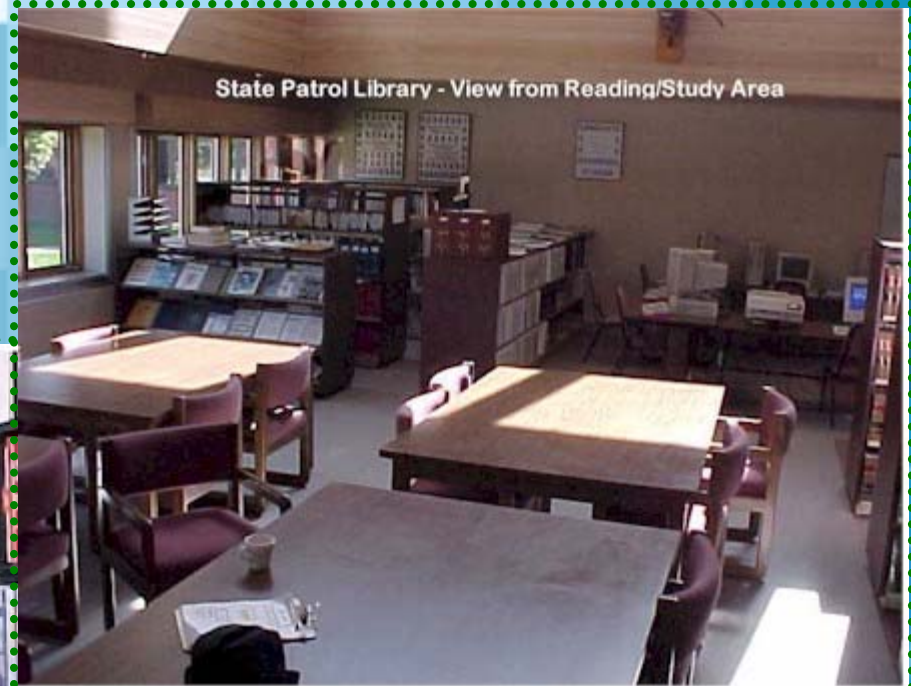


Information Commons for WisDOT

Defunct WisDOT regional libraries



District 1 Library and Records Center
(library is last 3 shelving units)



State Patrol Library - View from Reading/Study Area



District 5 Library
Stack view- opposite entrance

Information Commons for WisDOT

Currently operating regional WisDOT Libraries



SE Region Library



Truax Materials Lab Library

Information Commons for WisDOT

WisDOT Library in its new location

