


# Creating an Engineering Library in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century –

## **A Case Study at Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering**

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Libraries as a Place  
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# Think about your library places...



- ⌘ Are they welcoming?
- ⌘ Are they fun?
- ⌘ Are they essential to your organization?
- ⌘ Are they used?
- ⌘ What more can you do with your library places in order to draw in library users?

Each one of us can take steps everyday to build and influence new library places.

# Presentation Outline



- ⌘ Background of Olin College
- ⌘ Mission of Olin College and Library
- ⌘ Library Planning
- ⌘ Olin College Library – spaces, collections, and services
- ⌘ Challenges
- ⌘ What will it take to succeed as a 21<sup>st</sup> century library?

# Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering



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# About Olin College



- ⌘ Chartered in 1997; First students matriculated in the Fall of 2002.
- ⌘ About 225 students in the Fall of 2004
- ⌘ Located in Needham, MA
- ⌘ A residential college - all students live in dorms
- ⌘ 500,000 sq. ft. of space on 70 acre property
- ⌘ Team projects and hands-on work
- ⌘ Opportunities to pursue special interests

# More about Olin College - Some founding principles



- ⌘ Full tuition scholarship for every student
- ⌘ Three undergraduate engineering majors: mechanical, computer and electrical, and general
- ⌘ No faculty departments or tenure; curriculum integrates cross-disciplinary and collaborative efforts
- ⌘ Culture of innovation, constant improvement, and philanthropy
- ⌘ [http://www.olin.edu/about\\_olin/docs/founding\\_precepts.asp](http://www.olin.edu/about_olin/docs/founding_precepts.asp)

# Olin College Mission



Olin College prepares future leaders through an **innovative engineering education** that bridges science and technology, enterprise, and society. Skilled in **independent learning** and the art of design, our graduates will seek opportunities and take initiative to make a **positive difference** in the world.

# Olin College Library Mission



The library furthers Olin College's mission by selecting, developing, deploying, and managing resources and services that foster **learning, discovery, and innovation**. We strive to embody Olin's philosophy of continual improvement by leveraging emerging technologies and practices to serve Olin and the broader learning community.



# Olin College Library - Planning



- ⌘ Headed by Senior Olin Administration
- ⌘ Architect – Perry, Dean Rogers & Partners
- ⌘ Partner year activities
- ⌘ Think tank – “If we removed the collection, what would the library be?”

# About the Olin College Library



- ⌘ 12,000 sq. feet
- ⌘ Three full-time staff
- ⌘ 24x7 access with Olin ID card
- ⌘ Food and drink permitted
- ⌘ Comfortable seating
- ⌘ Group and individual study spaces
- ⌘ Wireless campus
- ⌘ On lower and 1<sup>st</sup> floors of Olin Center, administrative building















