



# SLAV MASTERCLASS SERIES 2021

## School Library Spaces: Case Studies

May 27

Online

10am to 12.30

This masterclass will consider seven different case studies of different library design/layout stories.

From small changes to whole library rebuilds these stories showcase good ideas, thoughtful planning and responsive designs that meet the needs of the school community.

Each of our presenters will share images of their spaces and outline their experiences. There will be time for questions.

We will also share a video presentation **15 Big Ideas in 15 Short Minutes!** by **Kevin Hennah**, sponsored by **Raeco**.

# Case study Presentations

## Library Dreaming

Anyone working in schools in general, and more specifically, libraries, will know that our resources, services, and perhaps most importantly, our clientele have dramatically changed over the past decade. When given the opportunity to redesign our 20-year-old library space, I knew that the old library 'design principles' would not suffice. So began the journey of 'Library Dreaming' which eventually led to an innovative, collaborative, responsive and welcoming space for the entire school community. This session has a strong focus on meeting the specific needs of your school, and will provide starting points, money saving tips, and strategies for working with architects and builders.

**Bonnie Ahles, Library / Humanities, Heathmont College**

## St. Joseph's Resource Centre – Flexible and multi-use

The objectives of the new building were to create a supportive, positive and welcoming place for learning, reading, studying, recreation and socialising. The new Resource Centre incorporates the school library, IT support and Careers and Pathways advice, a study space, a robotics soccer table, a custom-built chess table, a media dark room and production space and a 3D printer technology area. The comfortable soft furnishings and flexible shelving allow us to accommodate a range of purposes and learning opportunities.

**Luke Featherston, Resource Centre Manager, Trinity College, Colac**

## Alexandria Resource Centre – A Zoned Approach

This major project, that took just over a year to complete, saw the move of Library Services from a 40-year-old, small dark, brick rectangle into a light-filled, open double storey space.

Consultation was extensive, the new Resource Centre is also home to Careers, Information Technology Services, and offices for Counsellors and Psychiatrists. Architects were able to transform the previous gymnasium into the exciting new teaching and learning space.

Our instructions were simple: Leave us open space and we will create the different zones to cater for our teachers and students with our layout and use of mobile furniture. We believe we have made huge inroads in achieving this vision.

**Michael Hill, Librarian, Alexandria Resource Centre, Catholic Regional College, Melton**

## Lockdown Redesign

The library as it was had a small corner that was used as a classroom with Non-Fiction stacks coming out perpendicular to the wall. This not only blocked natural light but created hiding corners for students at lunchtimes and recess. During the lockdown period, I had the opportunity to take a breath, use some time and some of my design experience to look at how to open up the space and improve the visual aesthetic of the library. The solution whilst not perfect turned out to be fairly simple and reasonably inexpensive, with positive feedback received from both students and teachers.

**Trudi Kirk, Library/ICT Resource Manager, Mansfield Secondary College**

## Senior School Library Redesign

Our Winifred Berry Information centre was opened in 1974, and enlarged and re-opened in 2001. In 2005, when I commenced as Head of Library, there were 3 spaces: a reading area with the Fiction titles; an area that housed Non-fiction, plus a large central office with storage and a small internal room housing Audio Visual equipment. The Careers office and classroom were adjoining as were two computer labs.

By 2016 our students had one to one digital devices, and the capacity of our spaces was inadequate. The redesign of the space commenced with consultations with the architect and reference to the overall school improvement plan. The decision was made to take the re-development in stages and to make a bigger and more flexible open space. The first internal wall was removed in December of 2016; the installation of the new furniture was completed at a leisurely pace during the first Covid lockdown in Term 2 2020.

**Margaret Simkin, Head of Library, The Hamilton and Alexandra College**

## Non-Fiction Genrefication

Our team transformed our library from tired to terrific over a period of about six months!

**Before:** Long rows of tall shelves were packed into a corner of the library against windows, where direct sunlight faded a tightly packed, seldom weeded and dusty collection of non-fiction spines.

**After:** Clearly defined and colour-coded 'Subject Lounges'. Moving shelving away from the windows allowed more natural light into the space for classes. Breaking up shelves into a more interactive floorplan combined with an improved Wide Reading program led to an increase of non-fiction loans this term by 240% (above Term 1 last year). We achieved this on a modest budget, with a medium sized library team.

**Caitlin Bruns, Resource Centre Learning Leader, Marcellin College**

## Library Spaces

Emmanuel College, Warrnambool, a Catholic secondary school, has just undergone a refurbishment and expansion of the Library. We have been open to users since March 22 2021. We began in earnest in 2019 looking at redeveloping the existing Library but discussions had begun earlier than this. During our preparation for expansion, we visited many school, public and university library sites and also looked at other public buildings such as shopping centres and the Melbourne Tennis Centre to see how public spaces are being designed and used. Our aim is to have distinct spaces within the Library, catering for student and staff use, for individual and private study and public collaborative spaces.

**Margaret Sinnott, Learning Resource Centre Coordinator & Teacher Librarian, Emmanuel College, Warrnambool**

## Kevin Hennah presents 15 Big ideas in 15 short minutes!

(via video)

Sponsored by



Showcasing new products and innovative ideas to increase usage, this flash presentation packs a lot of inspiration into limited time. Join Kevin Hennah as he presents 15 of his favourite ideas and products, he has recently helped develop to target the practical needs of school libraries. Covering all budget levels, this fast-paced presentation abounds with ideas to help keep libraries vibrant and relevant.

### Further Details

- A padlet has been created to support the sharing of ideas and resources. <https://padlet.com/slavconnects/librariyspaces2021>
- A recording of the event will be provided to all participants.
- A certificate of participation will be provided upon request.

## REGISTRATION

\$80.00 – SLAV Members

\$120.00 – Non-Members

To register please go to the registration page:

<https://slav.wildapricot.org/event-4231889>



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