Building Task Force
Technology Subgroup Final Report

Findings

Technology findings revolve around users bringing their own devices and the technology provided in both public and staff spaces. BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) is a rising trend both nationally and at JMU. JMU's Technology Trend Survey and L&ET user surveys both indicate faculty and students are bringing their own devices. In fact, most often they are bringing multiple devices. Devices include laptops, tablets, eReaders and smartphones. Results indicate that these devices are being used often for course work, as well as personal or social uses. In order to support the use of mobile devices, students indicate a need for charging stations through electrical and USB hubs, reliable wireless connectivity inside and outside the building and the ability to print using a wireless connection. Support will also need to be flexible and agile to account for future innovation in the arena of mobile devices.

Findings related to technology provided in public and staff spaces reveal that our staff and patrons want technology spaces that are comfortable and diverse. Technology spaces should include common spaces, group study rooms, production studios, makerspaces, 24 hour lab space, presentation space, and a gaming lab. A mix of both Mac and PC computers, computers dedicated to printing, assistive technologies, and both sit-down and stand-up computer stations are appealing to students depending on their task. Visits to other institutions indicate that the execution of technology needs to be sustainable from both personnel and financial aspects. In addition, technology provided in staff spaces should enhance and provide opportunities for creativity, design, collaboration and presentation.

Inspirations

The vision for technology is driven by on-site visits, webinars and literature that demonstrate how technology is used to enhance and support teaching, learning and scholarship and is easily sustainable. Various reports and articles including the Horizon Report and OCLC.org showcase the trends, challenges, technologies, and role we play in staying up-to-date and providing faculty and students with the technology and infrastructure they need to be successful. In addition, site visits revealed exciting possibilities and the reality that a technology plan that includes support and replacement needs is vital to the sustainability of the technology.

Vision

Technologies like virtual reality, contextual computing, Internet of Things, and no-touch interfaces are always emerging and evolving, so it is vital for L&ET to incorporate technologies and infrastructure that are agile, adaptable, and sustainable. Additionally, underpinning all technology is the necessity for adequate staff to not only maintain it, but

to support and educate patrons in its use. The technology infrastructure provided by L&ET needs to be fast, reliable and expandable. Staff and patrons should be able to easily connect, display, and print wirelessly from their personal devices, as well as communicate and work with wearable technologies. Access to charging stations, USB ports and adapters should be readily accessible. Technology should guide users with digital way-finding and support self-checkout. Technology should also enhance spaces for both staff and patrons to provide opportunities for face-to-face collaboration, virtual collaboration, presentations, and active teaching and learning. Advancements in virtual technologies will allow distance students to interact in a more meaningful way with our services and resources. Dedicated spaces should support digital media, the "maker" movement, digital scholarship, and innovative teaching by providing users with technology, tools, and resources to experiment, design and create learning content.