

Projects by Aaron Cohen Associates, Library Consultants

Project Name & Location:

New England Institute of Technology Library
Warwick, RI

Nature of Firm's Responsibility:

Needs Assessment, Building Program, Schematic Layouts

Aaron Cohen Associates (ACA) completed a library planning study for the New England Institute of Technology (NEIT). The project team identified existing service requirements and developed a conceptual plan for the future Library, which is to be expanded into a Library, Media and Research Center.

ACA's planning studies responded to the ways students perform digital work. They do more collaborative project-based learning and need more space for quiet study. We recognized a changing academic environment and a need to update library services. The project team incorporated digital collection requirements as well as demands for print materials. We also integrated long- and short-term building options. The programming study helped improve teaching and learning, community exchange and training. The new NEIT library, to be located at the NEIT campus, was developed with enhanced digital research capabilities, reorganized collections and collaborative group spaces.



The new library's physical setup will have the capacity to generate and distribute digital resources, which in turn will produce a fertile environment for improved integration of academic research services. The implications for providing discovery-based services will be particularly profound. The relationship between the students, faculty and administration will be one of collaboration, improving study areas and supporting student success objectives.

Based on reorganized and streamlined operations, the modus operandi of the new library will be to encourage NEIT's academic community in the use of traditional research and innovative digital services. As compared to the existing structure, the new library building will house:

- More student spaces in terms of seating, group study, programming and interactive computers.
- More accessible collection and display spaces.
- More linear feet of shelving than currently exists.
- An efficient spatial organization to improve student, faculty and staff support.