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Expansion and Renovation of the Darling Marine Center Library

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Final Report for Period: 09/2001 - 08/2004

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Principal Investigator: Eckelbarger, Kevin J.

Award ID: 0122189

Organization: University of Maine

Title:

Expansion and Renovation of the Darling Marine Center Library

Project Participants

Senior Personnel

Name: Eckelbarger, Kevin

Worked for more than 160 Hours: Yes

Contribution to Project:

Post-doc

Graduate Student

Undergraduate Student

Technician, Programmer

Other Participant

Research Experience for Undergraduates

Organizational Partners

Other Collaborators or Contacts

No other collaborators were involved with this project.

Activities and Findings

Research and Education Activities:

The new Darling Marine Center library is complete and consists of two attached buildings: an existing 1500 sq. ft structure and a 2500 sq. ft. modular addition built by Burlington Homes of Oxford, Maine. The existing building was renovated to provide a Librarian's office and storage area, a wheelchair accessible bathroom, a circulation desk, and a computer cluster. The new addition houses the bound journal and books sections as well as a current journal reading area. Both buildings are heated and cooled by a central heating/AC system and they are hard-wired with fiber-optic for Internet access. The University recently agreed to pay for the installation of a wireless Inetrnet system in this building as well.

Findings:

The new Library complex will more than double the current space available to users and we estimate the library will have room for expansion for another 10-15 years. For the first time, all of the journal and book holdings of the Library will be in the same building and a rare books and special reprint collection has been created. Recently, a retired zoology professor at the University donated his private marine zoology collections (books and reprints) and he set up a small trust to provide additional operating funds for the Library.

Training and Development:

The new Library complex will accommodate all of the journal and book holdings under the same roof for the first time. The up-coming installation of a wireless network will address the needs of many visiting investigators who have requested this feature for several years. The new library will provide the first ever study hall space for our own undergraduate students, summer REU students, and visiting students from many universities who use the Darling Center for their field studies. The old library had little study space so students often removed journals and books without permission so we hope to reduce this practice.

Outreach Activities:

The Center is planning an open house for the new library this summer and the local print press will be invited to do a story on the new facility. Many people (non-University personnel) in the mid-coast region of Maine use the Center's library as a technical resource since it has the largest collection of marine-related literature in the State. The Library is available to all users 7 days/week and 24-hrs a day although access requires a code to enter the complex after normal operating hours when the librarian is absent. A description of the new Library complex will be described in the Center's newsletter, 'Making Waves' to be published in the fall of this year.

Journal Publications

Books or Other One-time Publications

Web/Internet Site

Other Specific Products

Contributions

Contributions within Discipline:

The new Library complex will benefit all researchers who work or visit the Darling Marine Center. It is arguably the most important facility on our campus and it possesses more marine-related literature than any other library in the State of Maine. We expect library use to dramatically increase if for no other reason than it is a very attractive and user-friendly facility.

Contributions to Other Disciplines:

Contributions to Human Resource Development:

The Library is highly beneficial to the training of our undergraduate students, summer REU students, and graduate students, and it is vital to the research of resident and visiting faculty.

Contributions to Resources for Research and Education:

The new Library complex will be available to a much wider community of users and they will have more convenient access to information. A new historical exhibit is being created for the library on the history of the Darling Marine Center as well as the colonial and pre-colonial history of the surrounding region. The Center is situated in an area with a rich history of English, French, and native American conflicts including major naval battles involving British and colonial American forces. The Center has a history professor on its faculty who is a marine archeologist and colonial history specialist who is assisting in the preparation of this exhibit in cooperation with the local Historical Society.

Contributions Beyond Science and Engineering:

We believe the new library and its associated historical exhibit will attract local residents who routinely come to the Center to attend public lectures and to walk a 6-mile nature trail that was created by our support group, the Gulf of Maine Foundation. The nature trail begins at our new library and traverses our 170-acre wooded property and has been marked by signs identifying the local flora.

Categories for which nothing is reported:

Organizational Partners

Any Journal

Any Book

Any Web/Internet Site

Any Product

Contributions: To Any Other Disciplines