This component accommodates the public spaces in the libraries. Students at McMaster University are highly diverse, with a wide range of ages, backgrounds, ethnicities, experiences and abilities. As a result, the buildings in general and the public areas in particular need to be welcoming and supportive.

Activities to be accommodated in this component include:

• wayfinding signage and orientation,
• exhibition activities related to Archives and Research Collections,
• frequent receptions, ceremonies, catering support,
• large scale meetings and events with presentations,
• access to food and drink,
• interfaith prayer,
• access to main circulation systems (central and highly visible stairway, elevator).

The program is adding the following spaces to the libraries for this component:

**MILLS MEMORIAL LIBRARY:**
An expanded gallery area for Archives & Research Collections will provide greater opportunities to showcase and celebrate materials from the archives and special collections. In addition to the expanded gallery space, a new classroom is proposed adjacent to the Archives & Research Collections Reading Room, captured under the Specialized Learning component of the program.

A new Meeting Room with capacity for 75 seated will be located directly adjacent to the relocated Community Room, separated by a high performance folding partition. The Community Room capacity will be 36, giving the two spaces a combined occupancy of over 100, allowing the library to hold larger meetings, including all staff meetings. This space is envisioned as a University resource, and can be booked by others when not in use by the Library.

A new Event Space with capacity for 120 guests will also be created in the library, to be used as a shared resource for the Library and the McMaster Museum of Art. This space will be designed as a two-sided space for flexible access and occupancy—connecting to both the Library and Museum, but usable by one or the other independently. When not used for events, this space can be used as general learning space for the library, incorporating movable furniture.

This event space includes a variety of support functions, in order to provide storage for furniture and equipment, a cloak room, and catering layout space. Additional food service space is planned within or near the learning commons on level 2.

An enclosed Interfaith Prayer Room will be created at Mills, providing increased area for this activity.

**H.G. THODE LIBRARY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING**
A new larger enclosed Interfaith Prayer Room will be created at Thode, providing increased area for this activity.

No change to the existing café is proposed.

Finally, to resolve shortfall in public washrooms, addition of washroom fixtures has been reflected in this component.

**INNIS LIBRARY:**
No Public space at Innis.
LEARNING SPACE

This component includes all learning space in the libraries, subdivided into general learning space and specialized learning space. General learning space includes a variety of layouts for individual study including tables/chairs, carrels, computer stations, and quiet or silent study. Specialized learning encompasses a variety of learning modes, including group study, technology rich investigation, and classroom setting.

Activities to be accommodated in this component include:

- Individual and group study;
- Presentation practice;
- Graduate student research and study;
- Classroom activities including instruction and active learning;
- Program specific activities (i.e.: Lyons New Media Centre; Maps, Data, GIS department);
- Access to innovative technology testing and familiarization;
- Innovation incubation; and
- Makerspace.

The program proposes modification or addition of the following spaces for this component:

MILLS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The master program proposes a 3,580 sf increase in overall learning space, with a small reduction (-1,100 sf) in general learning space and a substantial increase (+4,760 sf) to specialized learning space at Mills.

General learning space will be zoned from noisy to quiet as one moves up the building. The opportunity to create a 24-hour zone is highly desired by students and will be studied in more detail in later phases of the work.

Specialized learning will expand as follows:

- Significant increase to the number of group study rooms (an almost fourfold increase from current plans)
- Addition of a Technology Gallery space where new technologies will be available for student use and testing
- Increased Graduate Student Commons
- Addition of a Seminar Room
- No changes proposed for Lyons New Media Centre; Sherman Centre for Digital Scholarship; Maps, Data, GIS department

N.G. THODE LIBRARY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

The master program proposes a modest increase (720 sf) to learning space overall at Thode, with general learning space decreasing by 6,510sf and specialized learning increasing by 7,234sf to allow for incorporation of much needed specialized learning spaces as follows:

- Small increase to overall space of ThiNK Space classroom, in addition to relocation of this resource. The current classroom configuration is poor, and the program recommends moving this element to a more suitable location that can provide improved sightlines, support team-based learning, and provide better technological integration.
- Substantial increase to the number of group study rooms (increased by almost 4 times the space), accommodating groups of many different sizes
- Addition of a consultation zone adjacent to the service desk on level 1, for expert-level consultation by library staff.
- Data visualization

INNIS LIBRARY

The master program assumes an overall growth of space at Innis reflecting an expected building expansion at some time in the future. The entire assumed increase (an additional 30% of floor area) is attributed to learning space in the program, with increases to both general learning and specialized learning as follows:

- Increase to Silent Study space
- Addition of Quiet Study space
- Reduction of general (open table) space
- Addition of two presentation practice rooms
- Increase in group study rooms
- Addition of an Innovation / Business Incubator
- Data visualization
A technology sandbox operates as a high-technology complement to a general learning commons. It offers students exposure to emerging technologies, demonstrates cutting-edge approaches to technological integration into learning and research activities, and can enrich the spatial experience of the library through strategic contrast between old and new.

Aligned with McMaster’s institutional reputation as a research powerhouse and innovation incubator[4], the master plan proposes an incubator space at Innis Library, aligned with the other business activities and research support provided at Innis.

This new proposed space will provide a space where students, faculty and alumni can meet to develop new business ideas and innovate on entrepreneurial pursuits with support.

A new makerspace will provide space for the design, instruction, making, assembly, disassembly, collaboration and exhibition of prototypes. Activities anticipated in the Makerspace are:
- Prototyping of 3D objects, furniture, and building components in a workshop environment (hand-made/machined or advanced computerized workshop).
- Research and development activities allowing designers to prototype and model ideas in order to evaluate and test design concepts.
- Technician support – support and oversight of activities in the fabrication workshop areas.
- Meetings amongst team members, between teams and between team members and mentors, faculty members or external collaborators.
- Training workshops for instruction or demonstration of equipment or software.

A Graduate Research Commons will provide a variety of spaces for consultation, individual work, and small-group collaboration, and should be able to accommodate small events aimed at sustaining a community of researchers at McMaster University. It could include:
- Flexible furniture
- Tech-enabled group study rooms
- Ad-hoc training and seminar nooks
- Collaborative open brainstorming areas
- Mobile white boards and privacy screens
- Quiet study and group collaboration zones

Group study rooms will allow for traditional and tech-based collaboration by groups of 2-4 or 6-8. They should be tied to a room scheduling system that functions through in-Library access points and patrons’ mobile devices. Motion sensors can interface with this system to release rooms for rescheduling if scheduled occupants do not show up. The rooms should provide a robust set of technologies to augment personal devices used in a group context, including:
- flat panel displays with wireless display for laptops and mobile devices
- web-based video conferencing
- tables with connections for laptop, power
- auxiliary connections

Presentation practice rooms should be similar to group study rooms, but must also include the capacity for presenters to record and re-play presentations. Visual access into and out of the rooms should be controllable, to afford a higher degree of privacy as necessary.

An upgraded Learning Commons will provide a variety of spaces suitable for a range of study styles and group sizes, with an emphasis on collaborative and group study modes on a variety of platforms. A complementary range of technologies is critical to accommodating the full range of activities anticipated. Key elements will include:
- Group study tables
- Collaborative computing stations
- Open work areas
- Support staff and space providing technical and academic help
- Access to printers
- Ready access to food and drink
The program allocation for Collections is based on a 10-year collections forecast which aggregates reductions achieved through the increasing proportion of on-line resources, relocation, and collaborative management of print collections, with increases resulting from ongoing acquisitions. Overall, once the full Master Plan has been realized, the forecast predicts that onsite collections will occupy approximately 77% of the space they do today. The library has already made significant efforts to reduce the collection footprint on campus through a variety of strategies. Some collection reductions are expected in government publications and journals as materials moved online, but the majority of footprint reductions will come from increases in storage efficiency, through the increased use of compact shelving and off-site storage.

At Thode library, new high-density mobile shelving will be used to make the on-site collection accessible to students, faculty, and researchers. Collections from Level 1 will be relocated to this new, consolidated collections area.

ARCHIVES & RESEARCH COLLECTIONS & PRESERVATION LAB[3]

The William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections acts as the principal repository for rare books, archives, antiquarian maps, and related historical material at McMaster University, and as such, supports a wide range of teaching, education, and scholarly activities. The collections consist of culturally significant books and unique records of national and international scope: manuscripts such as Boethius’s De Consolatione Philosophiae, written in 1150 ad; a collection of 37,000 pre-1800 books and journals with a concentration in the eighteenth century; the records of the Anglican Church for the Diocese of Niagara; and archives and books in literature, music, Canadian social history and politics, publishing, philosophy, business, advertising, labour, student organizations, temperance, popular culture, the West Indies, peace and war, Judaica, and the Holocaust. Of special note are the archives and personal library of the philosopher, social activist, and Nobel prize-winner Bertrand Russell.

The staff is committed to excellence in the acquisition of rare books and archives, their preservation, description, access to these materials at McMaster University and globally, and in the provision of research help to a wide community of users. The Division of Archives and Research Collections works collaboratively with other repositories to achieve the greater goal of preserving historical resources. Digitization of material from the Division’s collection is an ongoing activity, giving students and researchers worldwide quick, online access to our resources.

The present facilities of the Division of Archives and Research Collections include a reading room for consultation and research, temperature- and-humidity controlled storage areas at Mills Memorial Library, and a preservation lab. The safety of the collection, both environmental and physical, is a paramount concern, and renovations to the Library must take these needs into account. The following renovations are proposed to the basement level of Mills Memorial to improve the Archives & Research Collections space:

- Reflected in Public component:
  - Increase to the exhibition gallery for Archives & Research Collections to allow for showcasing and celebrating materials,
- Reflected in Learning Space component:
  - Addition of a classroom dedicated to this area,
  - Increased area for reading room
- Relocation of Preservation Lab to allow for expansion of contiguous collections space.
- Improvement to staff workspace.

The master program for staff areas assumes that, other adjacency requirements notwithstanding, co-location for most staff is highly desirable. Co-location can promote collaboration within and between teams, and will create spatial efficiencies that allow the library to increase the range and quality of spaces provided for staff.

Some staff positions are embedded within program areas, such as Lyons New Media Centre; Maps, Data, GIS department; Archives & Research Collections, and Sherman Centre for Digital Scholarship. Program areas for staff space in embedded areas reflect no change to existing space.

Program areas for co-located staff space are based upon the projected staffing seats required for each department. It is assumed that a balance between open workspace and enclosed offices will be desired when detailed design and planning occur for the libraries.

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The following tables summarize current staffing and estimated future staffing to academic year 2025/26 by library location and in terms of full-time equivalents (FTE) and Seats:

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<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>CURRENT FTE</th>
<th>CURRENT SEATS</th>
<th>A/Y 2025/26 FTE</th>
<th>A/Y 2025/26 SEATS</th>
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Note: FTE and Seat counts include Student FTE’s

The Library has six partners—programs that are independently administered, but which are located within Library buildings and serve library patrons. Five of these partners—the McMaster Health Forum, Media Production Services, the McMaster Institute for Innovation and Excellence in Teaching and Learning (MIETEL), the Bertrand Russell Research Centre, and the Statistics Canada Research Data Centre—are located in Mills. The sixth, the iSci Program, is located in Thode. The master program assumes that most of these partner areas will remain unchanged, but does propose two changes:

1. Increase in the area for MIETEL to include a sound studio for the production of audiovisual materials. This studio will be a shared resource with the library;
2. Slight decrease in space associated with Media Production Services, reflecting a consolidation of activities within one suite.

Discussion is ongoing at the University of a proposal to relocate the Bertrand Russell Research Centre and the Russell Archive to a more prominent location. Given the tentative nature of this discussion, the concept is not reflected in this Master Space Plan Report.