Strategies for Coping with Chaos

Or How We Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Destruction

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Overview of B&E Project

- Repurposing Library footprint proposed 2015
- Final approval December 2016
- Construction April to August 2017
- 1st move March 2017
- 2nd move May 2017
- 3rd move September 2017
Overview of UK Project

- New law school proposed for decades
- Plans finalized Fall 2016
- Move-out of the law school in Spring 2017
- Move-in scheduled for Summer 2019
Now that you have an idea of the situation, let’s talk about

LESSONS LEARNED
Lessons Learned

- Communicate, communicate, communicate
- Plan every detail even if no control over implementation
- Be open to each new day being an adventure
- Relax

Prioritize

- Maintain service as number one goal
- Communicate w/patrons throughout project
- Balance patron needs w/department needs
Prioritize

- Focus on the students during the renovation
- Build community without a building
- People are more important than spaces
Plan

- Examine use of old space
- Ask yourself lots of questions
- Dream about new space!
- Share your expertise and ideas w/management and design teams
- Measure, measure, and re-measure
Plan

- Measure twice, cut once
- Set up meetings to check in on progress
- Find alternate venues for recurring events
Adapt

- Communicate with management and design teams even when/if not initially part of the conversations
- Jump in and do what needs to be done
- Laugh!
- Answer ?s about project positively
- Thank colleagues for helping
Adapt

- Treat temporary location with patience
- Focus on teambuilding
- Treat others with patience
- Find things to love
Let Go

- of print titles not being used or out of date
- of having control
- of expecting smooth sailing
- of decisions not yours to make

Let Go

- of unneeded parts of the collection
- of storage areas that have been untouched for decades
- of mistakes
Enjoy

- a collection that is leaner & more current
- a new space that fits organization goals
- a feeling of we did it!
Enjoy

Find us at ORALL 2019 and we’ll tell you all about our new building and our beautiful new library!
We’ll be happy to give tours once it’s finished!