



Featured buildings template

David Wilson Library, University of Leicester (United Kingdom)

1. Name of library

David Wilson Library, University of Leicester

2. Type of library (academic, national, public, school, special)

Academic

3. Location (address, website)

David Wilson Library

University of Leicester

PO Box 248

University Road

Leicester

LE1 9QD

UK

<http://www.le.ac.uk/library/>

4. Is the building part of a university or city masterplan?

Yes. The building was the first major project to be completed in the University's 2005 Development Framework Plan for the campus.

5. Architect/ Design team

Associated Architects. (Based in Birmingham, UK)

6. New or renovated building or extension or reuse

Extension and remodeling of 1975 purpose-built library building.

7. Building costs (National currency)

Total project cost £32m

8. Building dates (e.g. contract signed/ construction started/ opening)

2004 - 2008

9. Gross building area (library gross area and total building gross area if the library is part of a building)

15,500 sq m

10. Number of user places and types (group study rooms, training rooms, carrels etc.)

1500 divided between conventional study places, group study rooms, group work tables, IT training rooms and informal seating.

11. Size of collections

1.05m volumes

12. Please state the main goals/ purposes of the new building for both the librarian's and architect's viewpoints. Were they achieved?

The main goals were:

- To increase the number of study spaces and to provide a range of study environments
- To house the open-access collections as economically as possible
- To create a building that is easy to navigate and use
- To create a welcoming and modern ambience, whilst retaining the character of a university library
- To introduce fresh air and natural light
- To integrate the separate Education Library and introduce a café and bookshop

All goals were achieved.

13. Who was involved in the planning process (e.g. users, library staff, other stakeholders.)

Library staff

Students (through surveys, focus groups, student-staff committees, presentations)

Researchers

Academic staff

Catering and Bookshop staff

Members of the University's governing body

Sponsors

14. Are there any features relating to sustainability?

- Natural ventilation for most of the building
- Exposed concrete structures, both new and pre-existing, provide high thermal mass to moderate the internal environment
- Highly glazed façade allows night time purging
- PVA arrays, forming part of a research project

15. Please comment on any features that worked particularly well.

- The legible, repetitive layout
- High quality finishes and furnishings
- The provision of a range of study spaces
- The ambience – accessible, welcoming but also embodying the gravitas of a library.