

# “Why Do We Need to Expand the Jones Library? The Library is perfect as is!”

In a perfect world, we wouldn't need any more square footage. We truly wish that re-designing our interior to flow more safely and efficiently would solve our problems. As some people have noted, we have several inefficiently used spaces such as in the atrium and on the top floor. Unfortunately, there isn't enough of that inefficiently-used space to give us what we need.

To fully understand the need, it's best to look at each Library department separately, which is what we did when writing the *Building Program*, which you can find on our website. For example:

## English as a Second Language

1. Staff are having to referee “disputes” between tutors, who all need to use the tutoring rooms at the same time. We need several more spaces for students with low confidence to practice English with their tutors in a way that feels “safe” (i.e., so that no one else hears the students' errors).
2. There is also a problem with the area where students and tutors wait for one another to arrive for their sessions. Right now, the only place they can sit and wait is in the Career Center, which is designated as a “quiet study area.” The people waiting there cannot greet each other and have a friendly conversation without disturbing those who are trying to study. Yet the whole point of an ESL program is to promote authentic interactions like these. Students need lots of practice in a setting where they can freely converse.
3. A third problem is that it is hard to schedule events like evening/weekend tutor gatherings and volunteer trainings because they are in competition with Conversation Circles and all the events that other Library departments are scheduling. We try not to step on each other's toes, but it can be frustrating when you have to move an event several months ahead just to get the room reservation you need.
4. As the ESL program has grown, our space needs have changed quite a bit. Shuffling things around would only be a temporary fix. If you put together ESL concerns with those of Youth, Young Adult, Reference, Special Collections, etc., it becomes very clear that a building expansion will be needed at some point in the future.