



**THE PROJECT**

Trinity University is a private, liberal arts institution serving primarily undergraduates. Its academic programs in the arts and sciences include pre-professional and professional fields to provide broad and intensive educational opportunities. The University has a diverse enrollment of 2,400 students. The Coates Library has about one million volumes and is considered the finest library in the city of San Antonio. The University has been involved in campus planning efforts which include the creation of a new and relocated main gateway to the campus. A library study was initiated due to this concept plan and the affect it may have on the library, its uses, and access to it. Trinity retained DOBER LIDSKY MATHEY (DLM) to engage in the library study.

**CHALLENGE**

In their concept campus plan, the University is considering a relocation of "front door" functions from another area of campus to be near or within the Coates Library. Higher education libraries have evolved from primarily warehousing stacks to providing more on-line resources, and more student-to-student, student-to-faculty, and faculty-to-faculty collaboration spaces and resources. The issues were: *a) What are the future needs of the library? 2) Should Admissions and Financial Aid be relocated within the library?*

**SOLUTION**

Through a series of interviews with Trinity constituents and meetings with the project Planning Committee, library needs and aspirations were articulated. DLM then quantified the various University and library elements and incorporated them into several concept plans that considered current and future library uses. With the active participation of the Planning Committee and Trinity constituents, DLM synthesized and refined a variety of concept plans to satisfy 21<sup>st</sup> century library needs. Adjusting the current net assignable square footage (NASF) to guidelines, and including NASF projections, the overall projected space requirement for all library spaces remains although a consolidation and reduction of volumes was required to allow more student collaboration space. This outcome showed that a relocated campus gateway with relocated associated functions such as Admissions and Financial Aid must be considered in another campus plan option.

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