“At a time when discovery can happen anywhere, students are relying less on libraries for accessing information, and more for finding a place to be productive.”

The reimagined Neilson Library will provide learning, study, and social spaces of exceptional quality and diversity to foster student, faculty, and staff productivity. These spaces will support traditional and new pedagogies and independent and collaborative work, and be enhanced by technology appropriate to specific uses and users.

**Technology**
User study spaces will include a wide range of current and emerging technologies and meet the following specifications:

- Technology will be appropriate to the intended use of spaces, encompassing a diversity of technologies ranging from no technology to high technology.
- Users will be able to bring their own technology to the library and seamlessly interface with technology installed or otherwise made available.
- Evidence of curricular needs for high-technology spaces will justify their inclusion in the library program.
- High-technology spaces will be easy to use and well supported by instruction and other services.
- High-technology spaces will be flexible enough to support medium- and low-technology uses.

**General Characteristics**

- **Accessible:** Spaces will be physically accessible to all, with adjustable furnishings throughout the building to accommodate the characteristics and capabilities of the diverse range of library users. User spaces will also be emotionally and intellectually accessible, welcoming, easy to discover, and comprehensible.
- **Useable:** Spaces, especially technology-equipped spaces, will be easy to use. Help options, personal and remote, will be readily available.
- **Flexible:** To the greatest extent possible, furniture, technology, and even some architectural elements will be easy to reconfigure to suit a variety of uses.
- **Adaptable:** Whenever possible, spaces will be designed to be modified at minimum expense to accommodate evolving needs for room sizes and functions, developments in technology, and methods of learning, study, and community interaction.

**Prioritization**

Study and other user spaces will be prioritized using the guiding principles described in the Program Vision. Because space uses overlap among different types of users, the working group recommends focusing on uses rather than types of users.

These would include:
1. Uses that can only happen in the library
2. Uses that happen best in the library
3. Uses that benefit from the library’s special resources and purposeful atmosphere to create new synergies advancing Smith’s mission.

**Continuum of Uses and Users**

Study and other user spaces will support a continuum of uses: work, recreation, social interaction, and refuge.

- Spaces will support these activities by accommodating a wide range of noise tolerance (from silent to noisy) and by providing both fixed and movable furnishings.
- While some areas will be fixed as enclosed or open, others will allow users to program the level of enclosure appropriate to their group size and privacy needs.
- Designated spaces will be open to short- and long-term reservation by individuals or groups, while common areas will be open to all.