

The James B. Hunt Jr. Library



▲ Outfitted with a host of Christie DLP projection technologies, NC State University's James B. Hunt Jr. Library offers faculty and students powerful and flexible research and visualization tools, such as the Teaching and Visualization Lab.

Christie helps visualize research and collaboration at the Hunt Library

In October of 2009, ground was broken on what would become the 221,000 square foot, state-of-the-art James B. Hunt Jr. Library, located in the heart of North Carolina State University's research-focused Centennial Campus. Upon its completion, NC State's administration, faculty, staff and students celebrated the grand opening of one of North America's – if not the world's – most technologically advanced campus libraries ever built. Helping achieve this recognition are several high-tech spaces and technologies integrated throughout the Hunt Library that have been designed to offer faculty, students and researchers open access to a myriad of innovative research and collaboration tools.

Part of these offerings include a host of Christie® DLP® projectors and Christie Spyder X20 video processors deployed in highly-modular visualization rooms that are being leveraged by various departments to enhance their research, learning and collaboration initiatives. "It doesn't just look nice, it is a purpose-built building – and that is a really crucial concept," says Maurice York,

NCSU Libraries' head of information technology, of the various visualization and collaboration spaces at the Hunt Library.

"I think of the building as one large integrated environment, and for me, that is one of the reasons why it was so important working with Christie. Its technologies, its engineers, the intellectual capital within Christie and the expertise in visualization systems and creating visual environments, really completely opened up that vision and made it possible to see how it all could happen."

Maurice York

Head, Information Technology, NCSU Libraries

Tasked with designing how the visual displays would be integrated throughout the library, Scott Frey, a consultant with The Sextant Group, embraced the challenges presented by York and his team in fulfilling the vision for the Hunt Library. "They were very uncompromising and very demanding – in a good way," comments

Customer:

North Carolina State University

Location:

Raleigh, NC, USA

Industry/Market:

Higher Education

Partners:

- The Sextant Group
- Snøhetta
- Pearce Brinkley Cease + Lee
- DEGW
- Skanska
- AVI-SPL
- Video Visions

Requirements:

- High-definition, 3D projection and simulation
- Modular design
- Windowing and image blending

Summary:

With a vision to create a campus library that offers a "vibrant intellectual and social forum for the campus community, showcasing the latest technological and research achievements of the university," NCSU Libraries designed and built the James B. Hunt Jr. Library, employing a variety of Christie display technologies, including a host of Christie DLP projectors and Christie Spyder X20 video processors.

Products:

- Christie Mirage WU7K-M (12)
- Christie DHD800 (4)
- Christie Mirage WU12 (2)
- Christie HD7K-J (2)
- Christie Spyder X20 (4)

Results:

Integrating Christie DLP projection technologies and video processing, the James B. Hunt Jr. Library offers faculty and students powerful and flexible research tools that are being leveraged by several of the North Carolina State University's departments, inspiring collaboration, innovation and learning.

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Frey. "They were asking things that I've only heard of on the periphery and they wanted to take these ideas and implement them for student use." Some of these ideas would lead to the creation of two specially designed spaces within the Hunt Library: the Creativity Studio and the Teaching and Visualization Lab.

Outfitted with four moveable Christie DHD800 single-chip DLP projectors and two Christie Mirage WU7K-M 3-chip active stereo projectors, the Creativity Studio functions as a white-box space that is highly-modular and features moveable walls so that it can be easily configured for a variety of virtual and simulation teaching and collaborative applications serving multiple disciplines. The Creativity Studio also employs a curved projection wall installed at one end of the room. Capable of accommodating 3D projection, the curved wall offers a platform for extensive simulation applications such as military and naval training. The multi-use capability of the Creativity Studio is crucial to not only the usability of the room, but is the driving philosophy for the library as a whole, explains York: "We can reconfigure how the technology works any time to meet the needs of its users and really open up their imagination for how it can be applied."

Another such versatile room at the Hunt Library is the Teaching and Visualization Lab, which features 10 strategically placed Christie Mirage WU7K-M projectors offering seamless, 270-degree visual projection on three walls for a total of 80 linear feet of display surface. Controlled by a Christie Spyder X20, the Teaching and Visualization room can accommodate multiple disciplines by enabling control room applications, interactive computing and comparative social computing, among several other areas of study. Noting the display requirements of the Teaching and Visualization Lab, deploying Christie technologies was a natural fit, explains Frey: "They wanted a unique blended screen with multi-windowing capability.

So it was sort of an easy progression to pick from the Christie line because a lot of that is native in the Christie projectors and using them with the Spyder system made a perfect fit."

Since its opening, the James B. Hunt Jr. Library has welcomed countless faculty, students and researchers through its doors and into its many high-tech spaces where learning, innovation and collaboration are nurtured. "The Hunt Library is using technology to bring people back together where real collaboration and innovation naturally occur and we encourage that cross-disciplinary interaction to create new value that wouldn't exist otherwise," comments York, adding: "I think of the building as one large integrated environment, and for me, that is one of the reasons why it was so important working with Christie. Its technologies, its engineers, the intellectual capital within Christie and the expertise in visualization systems and creating visual environments, really completely opened up that vision and made it possible to see how it all could happen."



▲ The 114" x 300" curved screen and Christie DLP projectors in the Creativity Studio provide a platform for extensive simulation applications.



▲ The James B. Hunt Jr. Library provides NC State with a strategic competitive advantage for not only current students and faculty, but for future generations of teachers and learners as well.

Contact Christie

Contact us today to find out how your organization can benefit from Christie solutions.

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