Reinventing libraries in a digital world

It all started when the University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO) Criss Library moved their reference books down to a lower floor to make room for something new: a high-tech Creative Production Lab. The lab contains several cutting-edge technologies, including 3D and large-format printers, a laser cutter and hardware such as green screens and video cameras, but something was missing.

“I was searching for something unique that wasn’t already on campus,” explains Joyce Neujahr, Director of Patron Services at Criss Library. “With the main focus of the lab being media production, we knew that what we still needed was some kind of display technology our students could use to experiment, play and create.”

“I saw an article about North Carolina State University’s James B. Hunt Library and their Christie installation, and I was very envious,” Joyce confesses, laughing. “I thought, ‘Christie!’ and then started looking at your competitors, and really, there aren’t any. You are the best.”

The solution: a Christie multi-touch LCD video wall on a frame with casters for mobility, now playing a starring role in the library’s Creative Productions Lab.

The interactivity factor

The interactive capabilities of the video wall have been a big draw for the CPL.

“Our Chancellor thinks it’s incredible! He loves the Christie video wall and the whole creative space,” Neujahr shares. “The graffiti wall application that came with it has been really popular with the students, too.”

Neujahr notes that the multi-touch feature that allows multiple users to
simultaneously interact with the display actually helped sell the idea to the library’s Dean, remarking, “He thought it was money well spent.”

“We even have students designing video games, something we had hoped would happen,” Neujahr says. “They really enjoy using the Christie video wall for their gaming experiences.”

Creating community

The Christie video wall is not only used for interactive applications, but to display content. At the time of our interview, UNO’s hockey team, the Mavericks, had just made it to the 2015 NCAA Frozen Four championships for the first time.

“This is a very big deal for our smaller campus,” Neujahr enthusiastically shares. “We’re planning to move the video wall out into the large open area of our library so our students can watch the game together, live on the big screen. The sound is great, and the picture is sharp. We think it will be an amazing experience for our students.”

Committed to quality

“Something we’ve been very serious about is investing in quality technology for our Creative Production Lab, so the equipment works and works well,” says Neujahr. “Christie quality speaks for itself and that means a lot. We’re very happy with the installation and how it is being used. It’s been a great addition to our campus!”

Contact Christie

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