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Georgia Library Spotlight - Odum Library's New Media Center, Valdosta State University

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GLA SPOTLIGHT

Odum Library's New Media Center Valdosta State University

Odum Library's New Media Center (NMC) has successfully adapted to changing times. Since it first opened over thirty-five years ago, it has constantly evolved to support the needs and demands of students at Valdosta State University (VSU). As a result, the NMC has transformed into one of the most innovative spaces for student use in an academic library in Georgia.

Keeping pace with technological innovations, the NMC has been able to acquire devices and items that have become indispensable to students. One of the New Media Center first offerings that complemented this ideology was a large format printer. Large format printing supports students who participate in undergraduate and graduate research symposia and require professionally printed posters to present their projects.

This innovation continues today. The New Media Center has purchased a 3D printer and made strides on campus, transforming the mindset of what "media" means to the campus. Currently, the NMC is working on expanding the 3D printer program even further by creating a full 3D creation lab, complete with 3D scanners and modeling software so students can translate their own designs into a tangible product using the 3D printer.



In addition, the New Media Center provides spaces that support creativity and foster an environment of learning for students, staff, and faculty. Faculty can schedule workshops to learn how to integrate new digital content and software/hardware into their courses. Students can also take advantage of classes and workshops to learn how to use different programs that will help them become more

competitive in the job market. After learning about these new technologies in NMC's workshops, students and faculty get hands-on experience in one of the audio-video editing labs. In addition, the NMC supplements these spaces with resources that students, faculty, and staff can check

out to create new media on the go. Circulating equipment includes laptops, GoPro cameras, PA systems, and much more.

The real stars of the NMC are the employees who truly represent the Valdosta State University mission of providing a caring and welcoming learning environment. This philosophy is important in libraries because there is often anxiety surrounding change, especially when new technologies are involved. The New Media Center helps the VSU community navigate the fast-paced changes to technology while continuing to innovate so that current and future students can be successful in their academic and working careers. To learn more information about Valdosta State University's New Media Center, visit: <http://www.valdosta.edu/media>.