

8-1-2022

Kennesaw State University's Lawrence V. Johnson Library Renovation

Ellie Burell

Kennesaw State University, eburell1@kennesaw.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Burell, E. (2022). Kennesaw State University's Lawrence V. Johnson Library Renovation. *Georgia Library Quarterly*, 59(3). Retrieved from <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol59/iss3/14>

This News is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Georgia Library Quarterly by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu.

Kennesaw State University's Lawrence V. Johnson Library Renovation

The Lawrence V. Johnson Library on Kennesaw State University's Marietta Campus has been a central building and research hub for students since it opened in 1968 as a part of the Southern Technical Institute, later known as the Southern Polytechnic State University before consolidating with KSU in 2015. The 1988 expansion of the original building not only created much-needed space for the growing college, but also added to the building's character on a campus inundated with those studying architecture and engineering.

The most recent renovation completed in December 2021 has added to the overall character of this historic library, while also serving the growing and evolving needs of its students, faculty, staff, and local community. This renovation project originally started in fall 2017 with the creation of a more open floor plan on the main floor of the Johnson Library. This larger and more central space increased student study areas and the library's future opportunities for utilizing such space. With the finishing touches of this last renovation, the main floor space now houses a new check-out desk, more computers, study rooms, and study spaces for student individual study and collaborative groupwork.

In total, this renovation allowed the Johnson Library to expand its computer lab with an



Photos courtesy of Mark Kirkley and Ellie Burell

additional 112 computers and two new guest computers. The new library spaces also boast a new entrance, a multipurpose classroom, four additional study rooms, and all new LED lighting throughout the entire building. Also, the renovation provided an opportunity for the library system to relocate the check-out desk and library staff workroom and offices. One standout area of the newly renovated lobby is the library's rotunda. At the center of one's view when entering through the Johnson Library's new entrance, one can see the old metal lettering of the original memorial stone sign naming the building the Lawrence V. Johnson Library, which was previously found at the library's old entrance. This repurposed and renovated space will have a lasting impact on the Marietta Campus's student population as it has created space for more resources, more



Photos courtesy of Mark Kirkley and Ellie Burell

studying, and outreach opportunities for the KSU Library System's faculty and staff.

With the movement of the access services staff from the old circulation area and staff workrooms, the former and well-loved space is up next for a renovation. The Johnson Library shares space with the Marietta Campus's writing center, which is currently housed on the second floor of the library. With the old circulation area vacated, the writing center will begin their renovation efforts in that space shortly with hopes to be open and ready for students by the beginning of fall 2022. Once the writing center is moved into their new space from the second floor, the Johnson Library will regain several study rooms and the writing center will gain a larger and more permanent space it deserves. This upcoming renovation will

impact students through new opportunities to serve students in the ways they want and need. The library system's partnership with the writing center has been incredibly fruitful as they both strive to serve their students well. The library system looks forward to supporting the writing center throughout the coming years in their efforts to support student success!

The Lawrence V. Johnson Library has had to evolve with the ever-changing needs of their students, faculty, and staff. This most recent renovation is sure to meet more of their needs as they continue to strive toward their academic and personal goals.

Ellie Burell is the student engagement and marketing strategist librarian at Kennesaw State University Library System