IMPACT! The Library Refurbishment Project

Background
The refurbishment of the Library and Computing Centre was a 3 year phased project comprising:

- Summer 2007: Development of the Student Centre on floor 4, incorporating Student Services and Uniprint
- Summer 2008: Design and refurbishment of floor 5 (incorporating a new Music Library) and floor 6
- Summer 2009: Design and refurbishment of floor 2 and floor 3 (including improved accommodation for the Archives and Special Collections)

Cost
£4.2 million

Key outcomes
- Inclusion of more accessible service points
- Provision of a range of Flexible Learning Spaces: social, blended, technology rich, group and individual study environments
- Highly visible and welcoming integrated Library Information Service Points on each Subject Floor
- A brand new Music Library
- Increased visibility and improved profile for Archives and Special Collections
- Enhanced IT facilities, increasing the number of workstations by 20% to 500 computers
- Increased self service facilities including self issue and return and a state of the art Book Sorter to facilitate shelving and improve efficiency

Impact
- The number of students entering the Library as increased by 25%, to 829,000 during the 2009/10 Academic Session
- The number of enquiries on the Subject Floors has trebled (3500 in November 2009)
- Photocopying has increased by 10%
- During the course of a space occupancy survey conducted by CLS in November 2009, 80% of all computer workstations and study spaces were occupied
- In the first 2 months after the refurbishment of floor 3, the number of Art Design and Architecture students entering the Library increased by 16% to 22,000

What do users think?
- Amazing! Floor 5 1000% difference! Nice, relaxing, contemporary
- What a welcoming place for studying. Well Done
- I just want to congratulate you on the design for the library – I think its great!
- As an international PhD student, I appreciate the library staff service and the splendid and pleasant interior decoration and arrangement in the library

External recognition
- The project has generated substantial interest in the wider library community which has resulted in numerous visits from colleagues across the country
- University of Huddersfield has been short-listed for the THE awards for Outstanding Library Team for the Library Refurbishment