

Creating Collaborative Spaces for Dialogue Within the NIST Research Library

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Introduction

The NIST Research Library of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) within the U.S. Department of Commerce is currently undergoing changes that will transform the Library in major ways. One of these changes is the conversion of an "emerging tech bar" that offered hands-on experimentation with new technologies to one that offers collaboration spaces and showcases NIST's "glimmer" technologies. This new space, along with the Library's other collaboration spaces, will facilitate interdisciplinary dialogue across the campus, bringing together NIST scientists from the wide-ranging STEM fields of physics, chemistry, biology, information technology, and engineering. The Library's transformed spaces are a part of its major transition from a facility of physical volumes to an almost bookless library of digital collections and collaborative spaces.

Creating an Innovation Hub

The NIST Research Library's most recently transfigured space is designed to encourage collaborative creativity through exhibits of technologies currently in development ("glimmer" technologies), robust computers, comfortable seating, whiteboards, a self-service café, and fidget toys and other objects that foster imaginative thinking.

BEFORE



AFTER



Other Collaboration Spaces

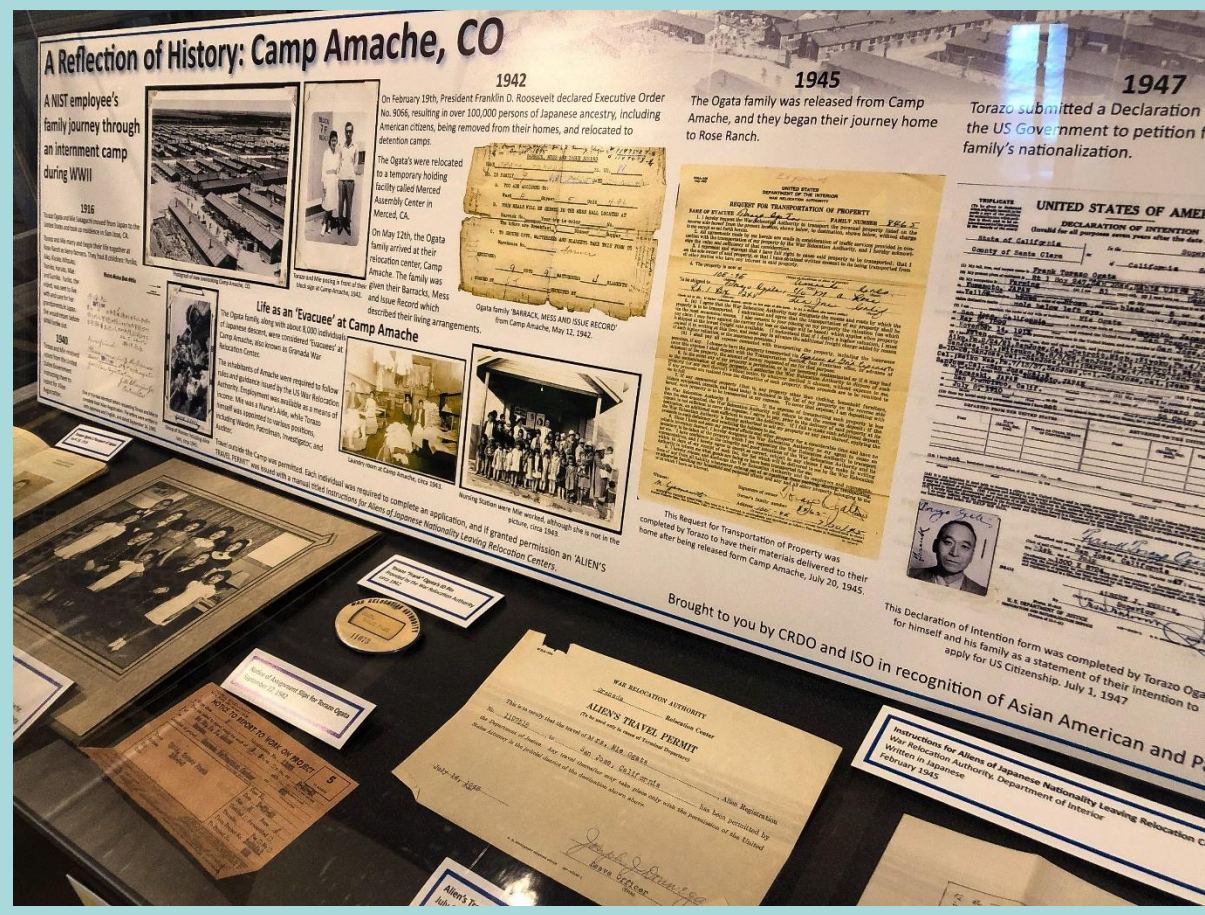
An area within the stacks on the main floor of the NIST Research Library was the first designated collaboration space created in the Library.



Today the space can serve as a quiet study area or a meeting location complete with executive style tables and mobile white boards.



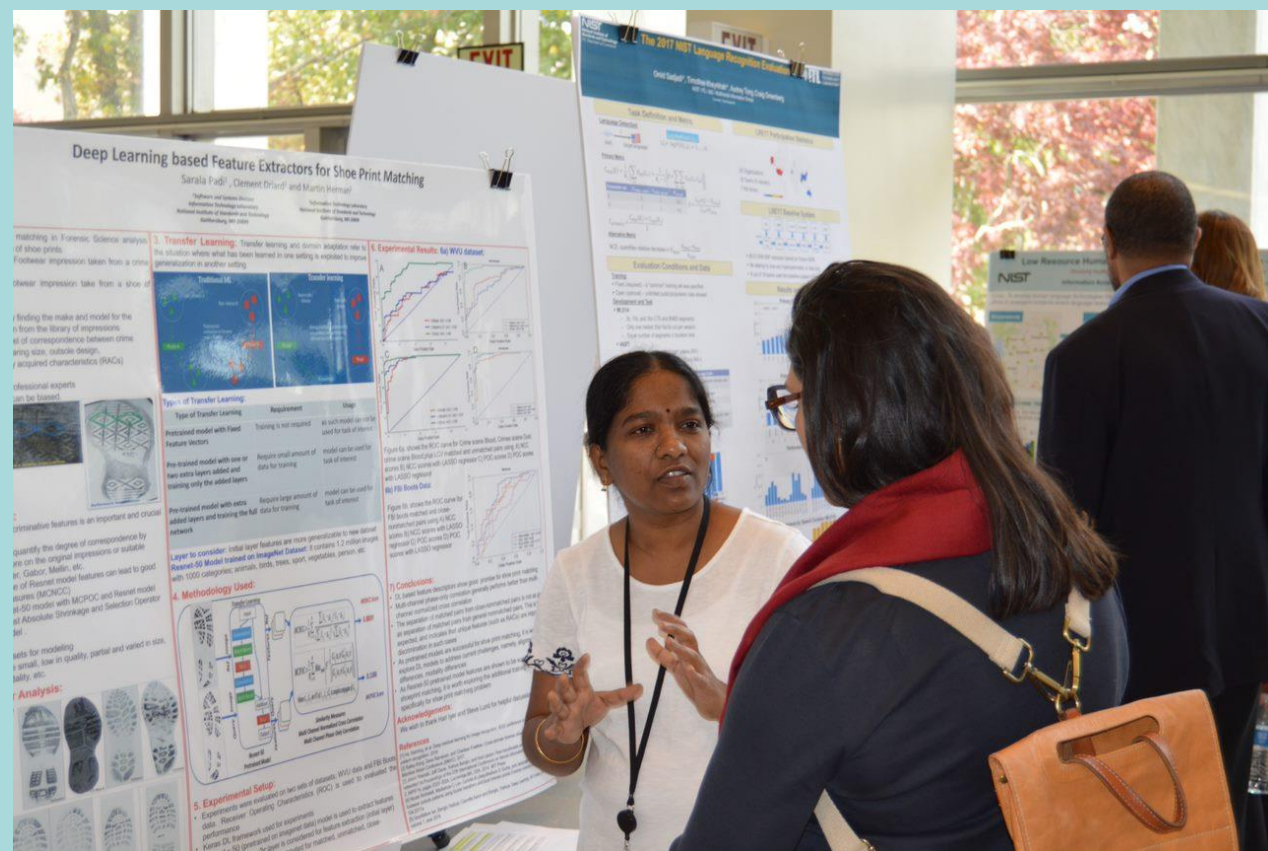
A unique space was created in the NIST Research Library when NIST's Civil Rights and Diversity Office (CRDO) came to the Library looking for ideas on how to highlight diversity within the physical space of the Library. This led to a collaboration between the Library and CRDO to create events and exhibits that recognize NIST's diversity.



The Library's Data Visualization Wall easily became a collaboration space when the wall served as a focal point for several events. These events brought together large groups of NIST staff. The wall showcased the solar eclipse in 2017 – attended by several hundred people, ITL (Information Technology Laboratory) Science Day in 2017 and 2018 (also planned for the fall of 2019), and a Holocaust Remembrance event in 2018.



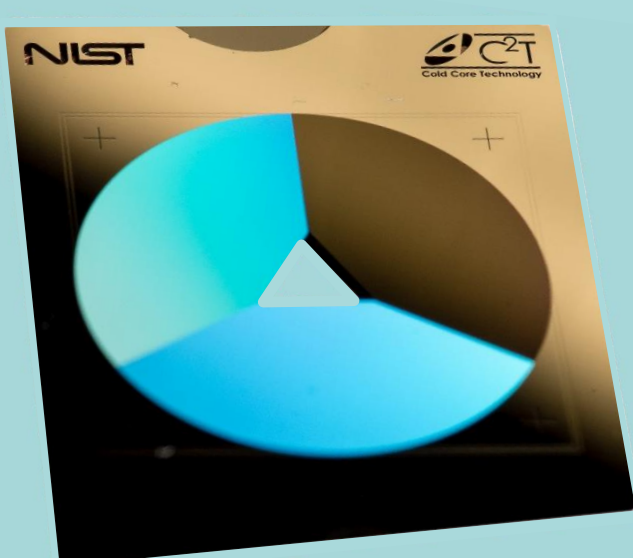
The NIST Research Library's large reading room faces a two-story glass wall. Just outside the glass wall is a long portico with seating for groups and individuals. The Library is currently renovating the portico to create an even more inviting space for quiet time, gatherings, and collaborative events.



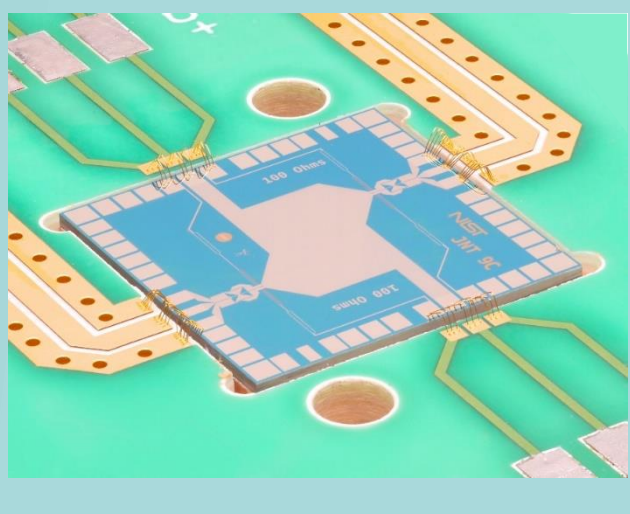
Future

A future vision for the Library's space includes collaborations between NIST researchers and the external community, primarily U.S. industry and businesses that want to partner with NIST and commercialize NIST technologies.

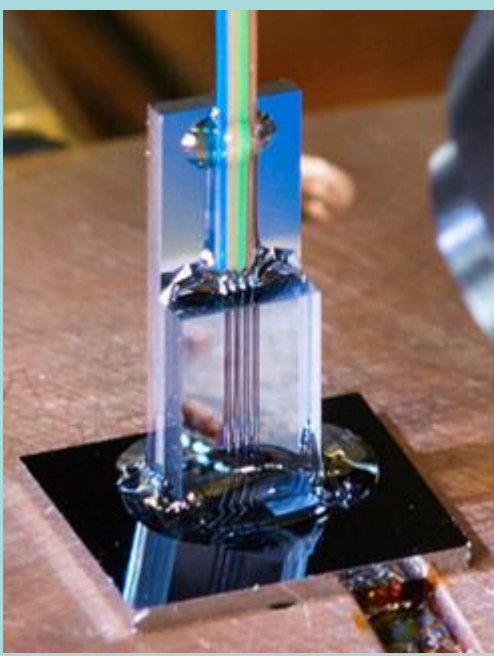
NIST's "glimmer" technologies will be featured



Cold-Atom Vacuum Standard (CAVS) will transform vacuum pressure measurements.



Johnson Noise Thermometer defines the new unit of the kelvin (k_B).



Photonic temperature sensors will move us away from electrical measurements.

Quiet spaces for individual or group work



Master plan for Library space (architect's rendition)



Innovation Hub Team



For More Information

about the NIST Research Library, use this QR code or visit nist.gov/nvl.

