

Load Up the Woody: Portable Classroom Leads to Partnership

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Opportunity

The Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library and the University of Utah School of Medicine realize an opportunity to partner technology and teaching utilizing the library's portable wireless classroom.

Wireless Classroom

10 Laptop Computers

Gateway Solo 5300 SE
700 MHz
128 MB SDRAM
6 GB hard drive
12.1" display



10 Wireless Cards

Cisco Aironet 350
IEEE 802.11b compliant
128 bit encryption
11 Mbps data rates

1 Wireless Access Point

Cisco Aironet 350
IEEE 802.11b compliant
128 bit encryption
Typical range: 130 ft @ 11 Mbps, 350 ft @ 1 Mbps

1 Laptop storage cart

Space for 16 laptops
15-outlet electrical unit to charge laptops
Top shelf working space



Partnership

School of Medicine

Pathology Lab Course Master wanted to revise laboratory curriculum using patient cases and direct access to library resources

- In the pathology lab, students access library resources while studying the cases in small groups
- A web-based course to teach students to use electronic medical and radiology records related to the case
- Students answer specific case questions in small groups, and prepare and deliver a PowerPoint presentation in follow-up session



Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library

The wireless classroom contributed in making this new pathology curriculum a reality

- Library faculty participate as information experts to guide the students in the use of the resources and provide PowerPoint instruction
- The wireless classroom is scheduled for 16 sessions
- Library systems staff provide support for setting up the laptops and ensuring access to the network
- Students with their own laptops can borrow a wireless card from the library to access the cases and resources

Value Added

Positive aspects of the portable wireless classroom

- Cost effective
- Mobile: delivers instruction where and when it is needed
- Adaptable: increases the number of computers available for instruction
- Flexible: provides opportunities for expanded library education services

Portable wireless classroom led to a partnership with the School of Medicine that had important consequences

- Increased visibility of the library as a technology leader
- Students benefit from having library faculty guide them to quality information resources
- Students are exposed to online resources at point of need
- Students gain skills necessary for life long learning

