The curated commons is a model in which a flexible library building shell and its infrastructure can respond to the specific time-sensitive needs of differing clients. It applies to faculty research, and in particular to small science activities (as opposed to big science activities that have major support that includes proprietary laboratories and facilities). It provides for sustained transformation of library facilities as well as its utilitarian and cyber-infrastructures to become a flexible reconfigurable space with cutting-edge technology and sustained funding streams.