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Why Do Students Want to Be in the Library If They Aren’t Using the Books?

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Why Do Students Want to Be in the Library If They Aren’t Using the Books?

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Focus on our Local Users

• User studies with anthropological & ethnographic methods
  – 2003/04: Faculty
  – 2004/06: Undergraduate students
  – 2006/08: Graduate students
  – 2007/09: How people search
  – 2008/09: Science libraries in digital age
Research Question

• How can we explain student preference for using “library” space over others?
• What do students need to make the most of academic opportunities?
• What can libraries do to better meet student needs in time of rapid change?
Case Study: Gleason Library

- $5M donation to renovate library and create a “student-centered space”
- What types of library spaces do our students need?
Design Workshop

- Walk-in participation ($5 & Free Food!)
- “Imagine the library has a big, new, empty space and they asked You to design it...It is exactly the way you wanted it to be and you love it and want to go there a lot. Show us what it looks like.”
you should be happy when you are here! (even if you are studying)

something abstract

sun shining all the time
(oslamps in winter)

meeting room

with tables, chairs

that can convert to smaller tables for discussion

-but comfy chairs

Shelby Room in WC

Overall atmosphere is
quiet but not silent, lots of

bright colors & semi-modern

not too weird looking furniture

sort of like an art studio space but

realistic and ceiling has class

painted on it, Georgia O'Keefe's similar
to color walls
Mahogany bookshelves, Old style lamps
Nice cozy feel

Computer Lounge with 802.11g WiFi
With Nintendo WiFi Connection

Movies and video games on big projection screen
Composite

- Collaborative
- Flexibility
- Comfort
  - Sitting, slouching, lying down all supported; food & drink
- Technology and tools are well integrated
  - From plasma screens to staplers
- Staff support
  - Very generic, all-purpose
Outcomes

• Collaborative
• Flexibility
• Comfort
• Technology and tools are well integrated
• Staff support
Outcomes

• Collaborative
• Flexibility
• Comfort
• Technology and tools are well integrated
• Staff support
Quieter Zone
Outcomes

• Collaborative
• Flexibility
• Comfort
• Technology and tools are well integrated
• Staff support
Windows & light
Outcomes

• Collaborative
• Flexibility
• Comfort
• Technology and tools are well integrated
• Staff support
• 10 computer stations in three locations
• 2 printers in two locations (wireless printing)
• 44 carrels with power and data connections
• Wireless throughout
• In-slab power distribution
Writing surfaces a great success!
Outcomes

• Collaborative
• Flexibility
• Comfort
• Technology and tools are well integrated
• Staff support
Staff Support

• No service desks in space
• Library staff drop into space as needed
Case Study: Carlson Library

- How heavily is the space being used?
- Who is here?
- What are students doing in the space?
Methods

• Design workshops
• Reply cards
• Observations
• Walk-though interviews
*MAKE THE ENTIRE FLOOR
* NO TALKING
* NO CELLPHONES

Be the 3rd floor already has go nik facilities &
lot 4 talking happens e circulation

a big, comfortable chair w/ a little
desk attached

put up holler actv in
most of empty wall space
marking windows

- more outlets for laptops
- an open, flexible floor plan
- a shelf w/ copies of commonly
used textbooks
- make sure to replace
flashing fluorescent lights
- some incandescent or @ least
yellow fluorescent lights

get some plants

current

Walls

http://www.eecondensed.com

a 200 cc

other

flatscreen

Electrician's Office

Restrooms

Entrance From Hutch

Atrium

Staff Offices

Farn 103
* more outlets for laptops
* an open, flexible floor plan
* a shelf w/ copies of commonly used textbooks

@ least
Small cubicles, same setup, just less table, not as many chairs 4-5/room, no screen.
"Still has whiteboard."
"First come first serve"
get get laptop locks, power strips, extension cords, desk lamps, etc.
(most popular textbooks \Rightarrow BIO 112, CHM 131, ORG 90, etc)
100 cards collected

– What are you doing here in this seat right now?
– How long have you been here?
– Why are you here and not someplace else?
– If we made you move this minute, where would you go?
– When is the very last time you were in this seat?
Reply Cards

- 63 quality of space
- 14 convenience
- 9 habit
- 4 books/materials only available here
- 4 to be alone
- 4 to be with friends
- 1 to use computers
- 3 to study
## Observations

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Data Gathering

Findings

Change

Methods

Question

Data Gathering
Proportion of Observed Students Doing Academic Work vs. Recreation

- 85% academic work
- 15% recreation
Findings

• Students want to be in a place of scholarly *gravitas*

• Provides setting, props, and people to adopt the *habitus*

• Facilitation of transition from student to scientist or engineer
Change

• Unique spaces designed for the disciplines
• Conversion of collection into people spaces
• Flexible spaces to host teaching, workshop & speaking events