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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University of Rochester
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
Process

- Question
- Change
- Methods
- Findings
- Data Gathering

Library Services
Library Spaces
Library Digital Tools
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)
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
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 vit facilities & lots of talking happens & circulation.

Put up bolder artwork in most of empty wallspace.
Making windows.

get some plants

* couch

a big, comfortable chair w/ a little desk attached

* Staff Offices
  - Staff Office
  - Staff Office
  - Staff Office
  - Staff Office

* Restrooms
  - Restrooms
  - Restrooms
  - Restrooms
  - Restrooms

* Entrance from Hurlb. - Entrance from Hurlb.

* Atrium
  - Atrium
  - Atrium
  - Atrium
  - Atrium

* Indicator doors to the 1st floor.

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

@ least
Indicates doors or other entrances to the 1st floor.
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 -> BIO 112, CHM 131, O190, etc.)
Reply Cards

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**

**Question**

**Methods**

**Findings**

**Change**
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