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
- Methods
- Data Gathering
- Findings
- Change

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)

Overall atmosphere is quiet but not silent, lots of bright colors & semi-modern but not too weird-looking furniture. Not too stuffy. Like an all-weather space that

sheltered seating area is cool, ceiling has glass

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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
null
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-through interviews
*MAKE THE ENTIRE FLOOR

- NO TALKING
- NO CELLPHONES

*Be the 3rd floor already has go for facilities
 lots of talking happens e.g. circulation

*put up bolder artwork in most of empty wallspace
 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.
* 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: BIO 112, CHM 131, 0190, 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

Question

Methods

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