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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?

Susan Gibbons

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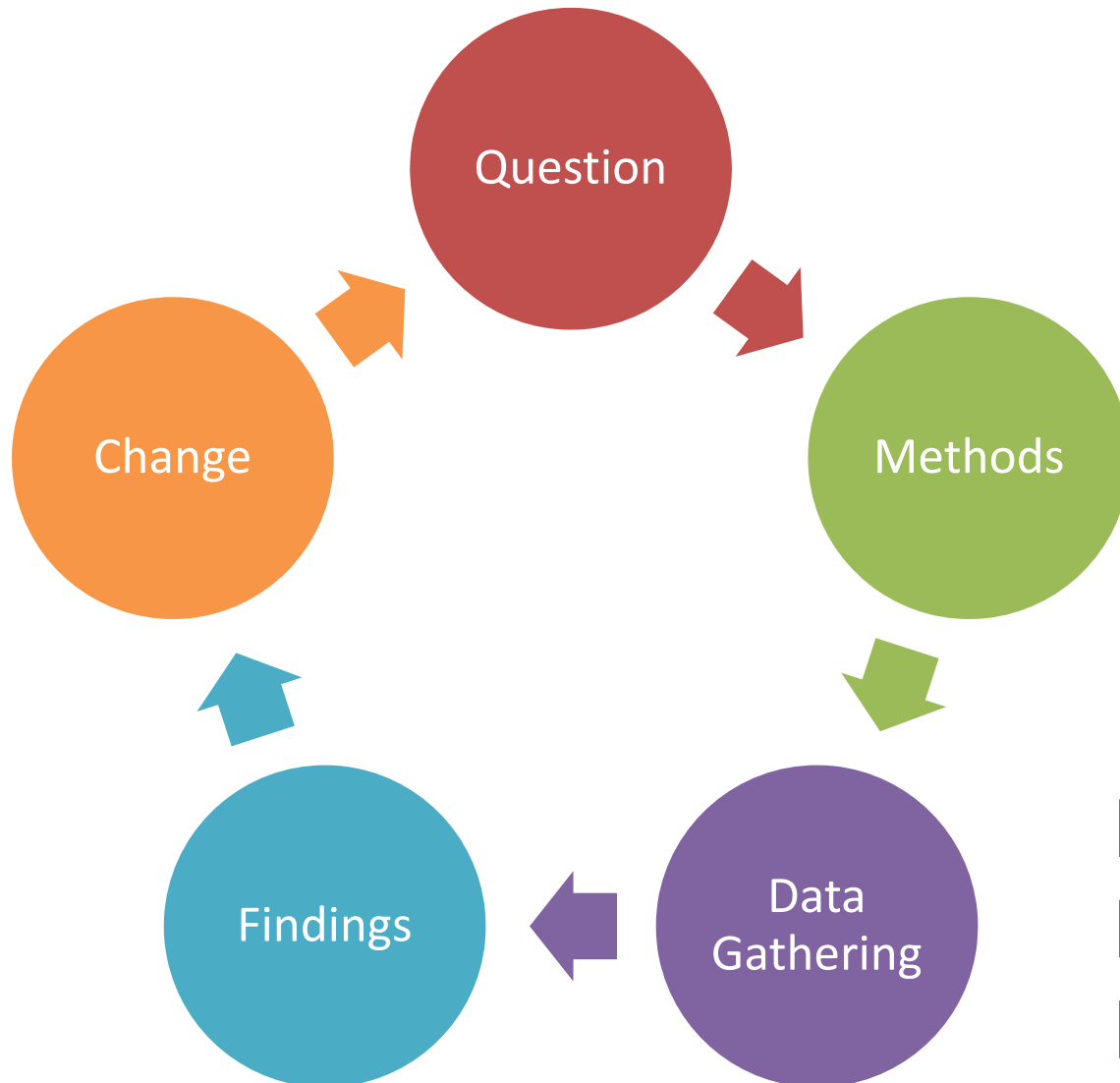


Focus on our Local Users

- 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



Process



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.”



[] = window
that can open nice day

Sun
Shining
all the time
(or sunlamps in
winter)

meeting room
with tables & chairs.
can convert to smaller
tables for discussion
- but comfy, not as
utilitarian as sun,
Stack Room in WC

Same Space

Overall atmosphere is
quiet but not silent, lots of
bright colors + semi-modern but
not too weird looking furniture -
sort of like an "all weather" space but
not as utilitarian - ceiling has clouds
painted on it, Georgia O'Keeffe & similar
on walls

You should be happy when you are here! (even if you are studying)

Soothing but not
obnoxious music playing in
background, softly - so you
can talk in a normal voice

glazed in super quiet
study area w/
tables + upright
chairs but not uncomfortable

coaches / comfy
chairs to talk

glass covered
floor. under glass
could be student
art or random other
stuff (quotes,
musical scores, etc.)

computers will
roll, chairs (can
check email, etc.)

new popular
fiction books
easy to find,
like a community
library

(enlarged
area)

more
couches

fruit + other healthy
snacks + someone
to stuff

long tables w/ burstable facing

doors

info
desk
(to find books,
get meeting room,
+ stuff)

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

the windows
should cover
most of the wall
and be fit with a
fire escape.
just in case

Sound-proof
walls
door recommended
stay shut
station-style seats
facing the back

lounge quadrangles
fit for anyone
wanting to take
a quiet nap.

lounge seats
facing windows
great for reading/relaxing

Grandly a quiet study
area.
A/V open for movie ideas
and video games on
big projection screen

also, have a bench
at shore with
clay models
of presidents and
important academic figures
on display

display
archival titles
padding
books onto, just
like the floor

mahogany bookshelves
line walls, add style
illuminate room (cozy feel)

Computer
lounge
fit with 802.11G
routers
with
Nintendo
wifi connection

this is a
constant
with the
white
wires

several oval
area for errand
pacing

radio
radio
plays
classical
music

Vending machine

Coffee table

Coffee table

Movie Library

Windows

projection screen

fire chairs

Books

Clay

really old
books



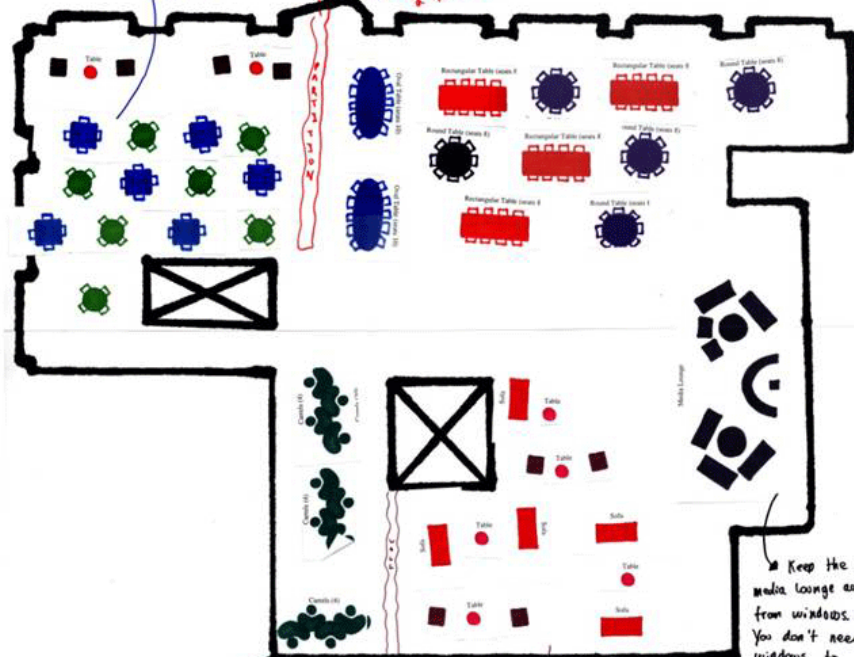
Composite

- 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



Small tables will get more use than large ones. Big group projects do not happen often. Instead, you usually want to study with a few friends.

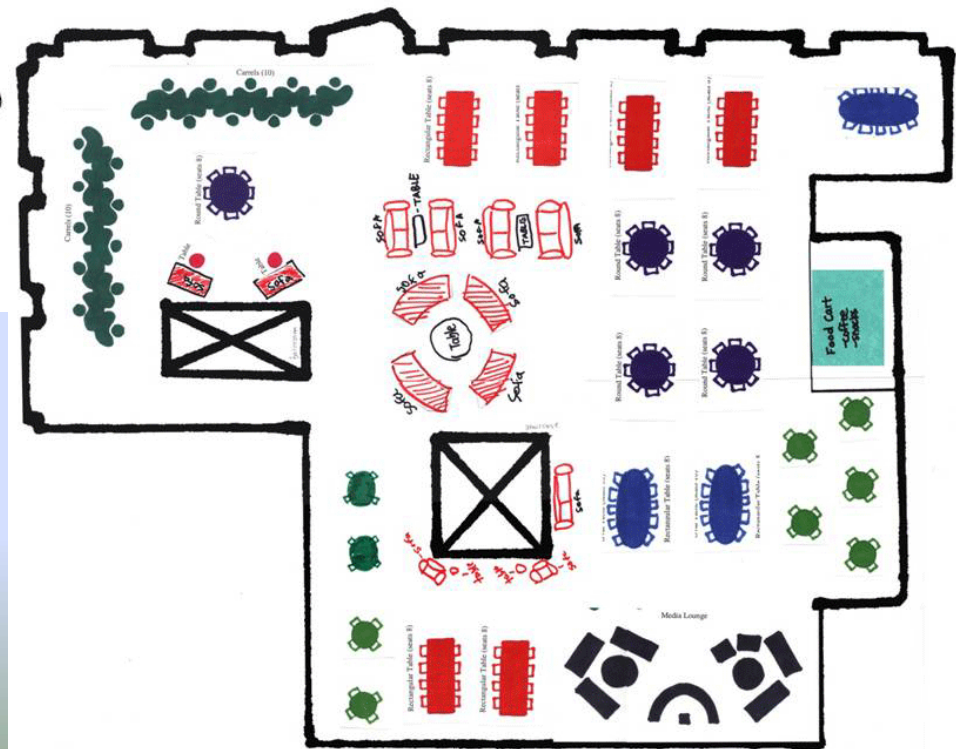
Separate large group areas from small ones. Especially in large spaces, echoing can be a problem. Just a few divisions can help.



Individual carrels don't need sunlight!

Serve coffee/snacks in the lounge area. Everyone will appreciate it and you will make lots of \$.

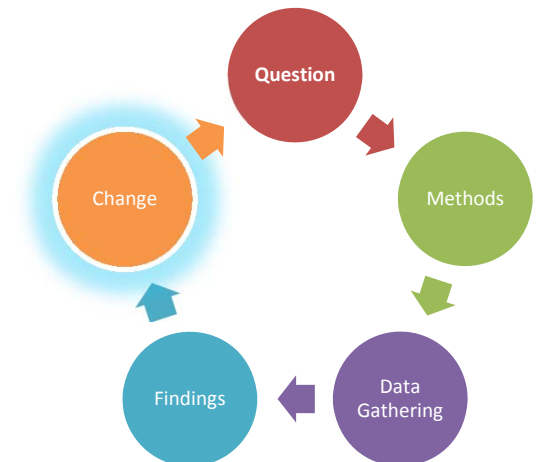
Keep the media lounge away from windows. You don't need windows to watch TV.





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

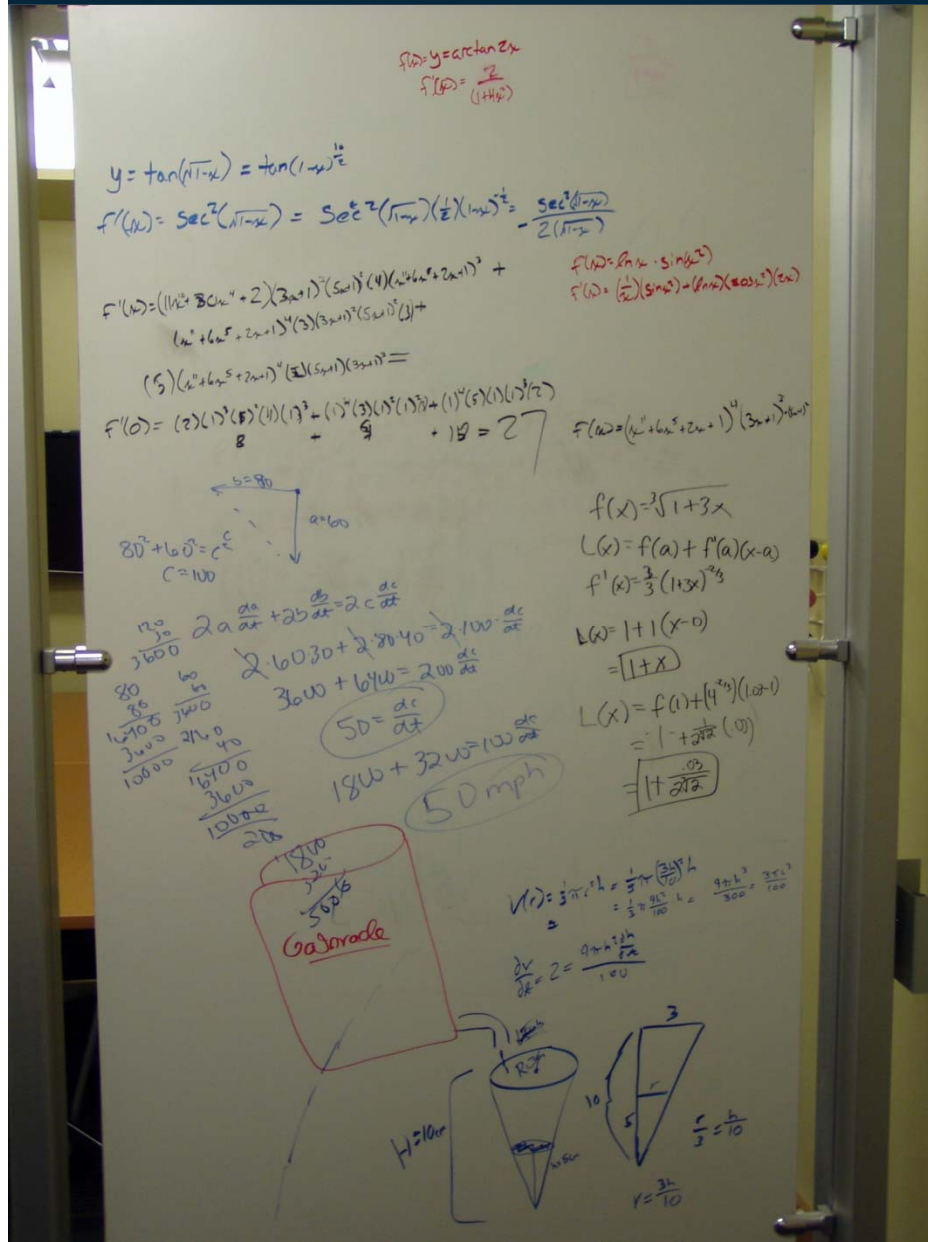


RIVER CAMPUS LIBRARIES

- 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



RIVER CAMPUS LIBRARIES



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?

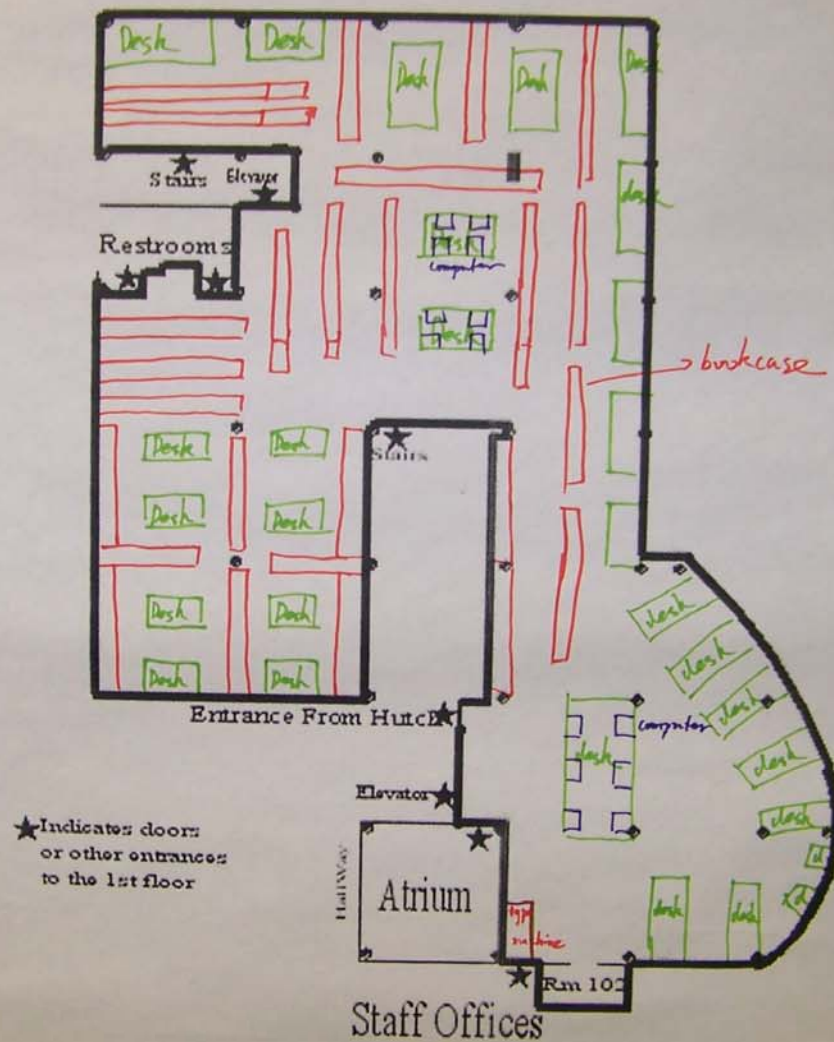




Methods

- Design workshops
- Reply cards
- Observations
- Walk-through interviews





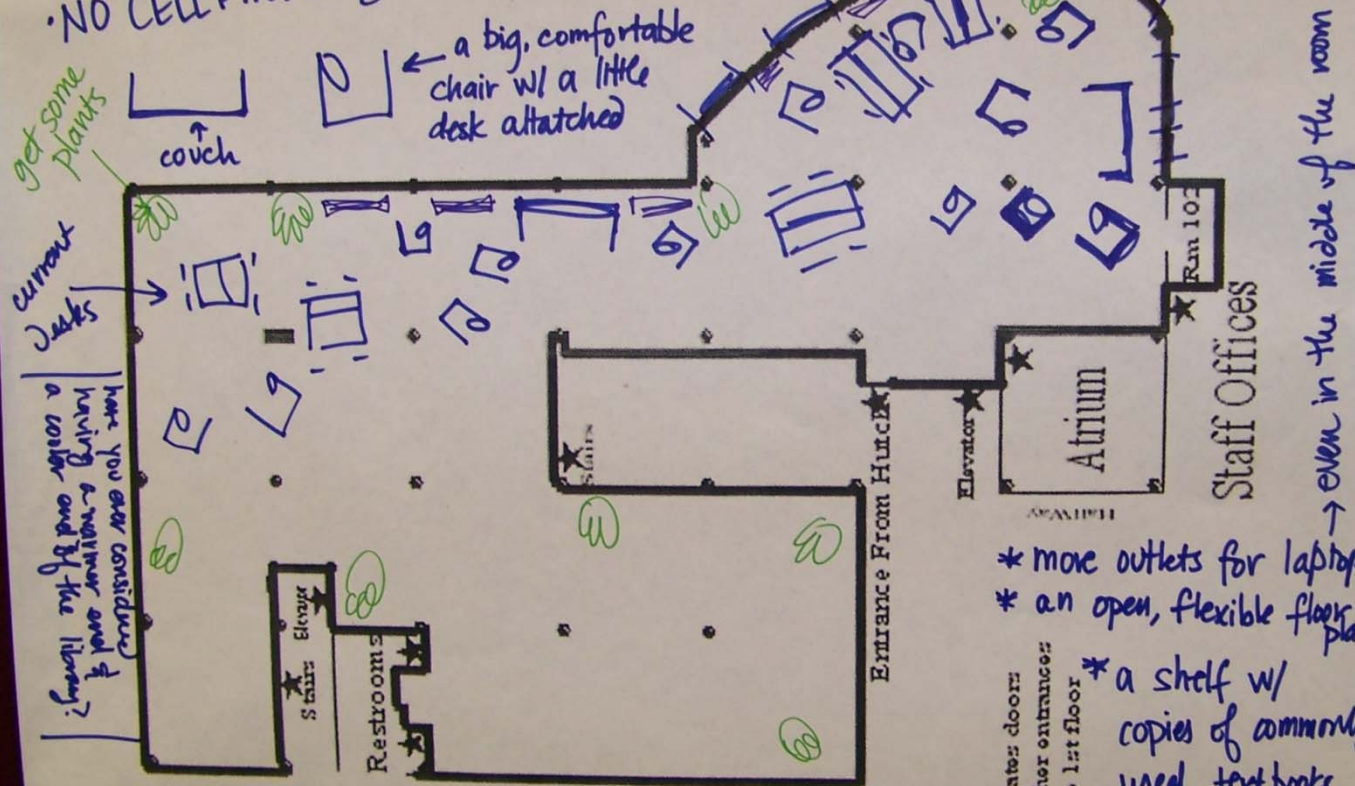
*MAKE THE ENTIRE FLOOR

• NO TALKING

• NO CELLPHONES

Be the 3rd floor already has gp wk facilities & lots of talking happens & circulation

put up bolder artwork in most of empty wall space marking windows



* make sure to replace flashing fluorescent lights

* some incandescent or @ least yellow fluorescent lights.

* move outlets for laptops
* an open, flexible floor plan

* a shelf w/ copies of commonly used textbooks.

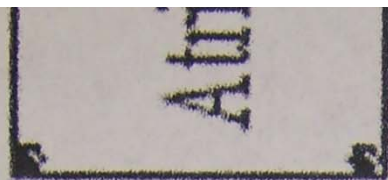
* indicates doors or other entrances to the 1st floor

@ least
ghs.



Entrance From Hunc

Elevator



Attn

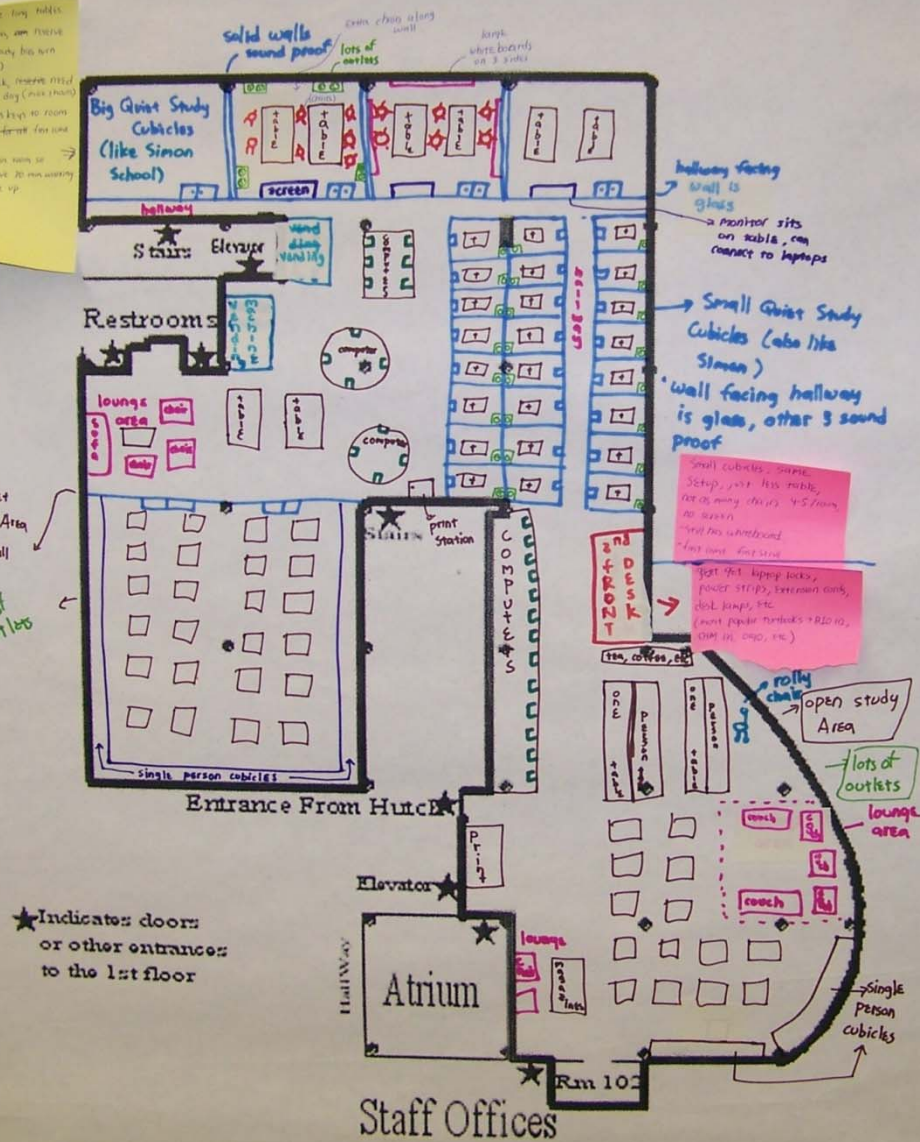
Staff

even
→

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

★ Indicates doors
or other entrances
to the 1st floor

Big Quiet
Study Area
glass & wall
lots of
outlets



is glass, other 3 sound
proof

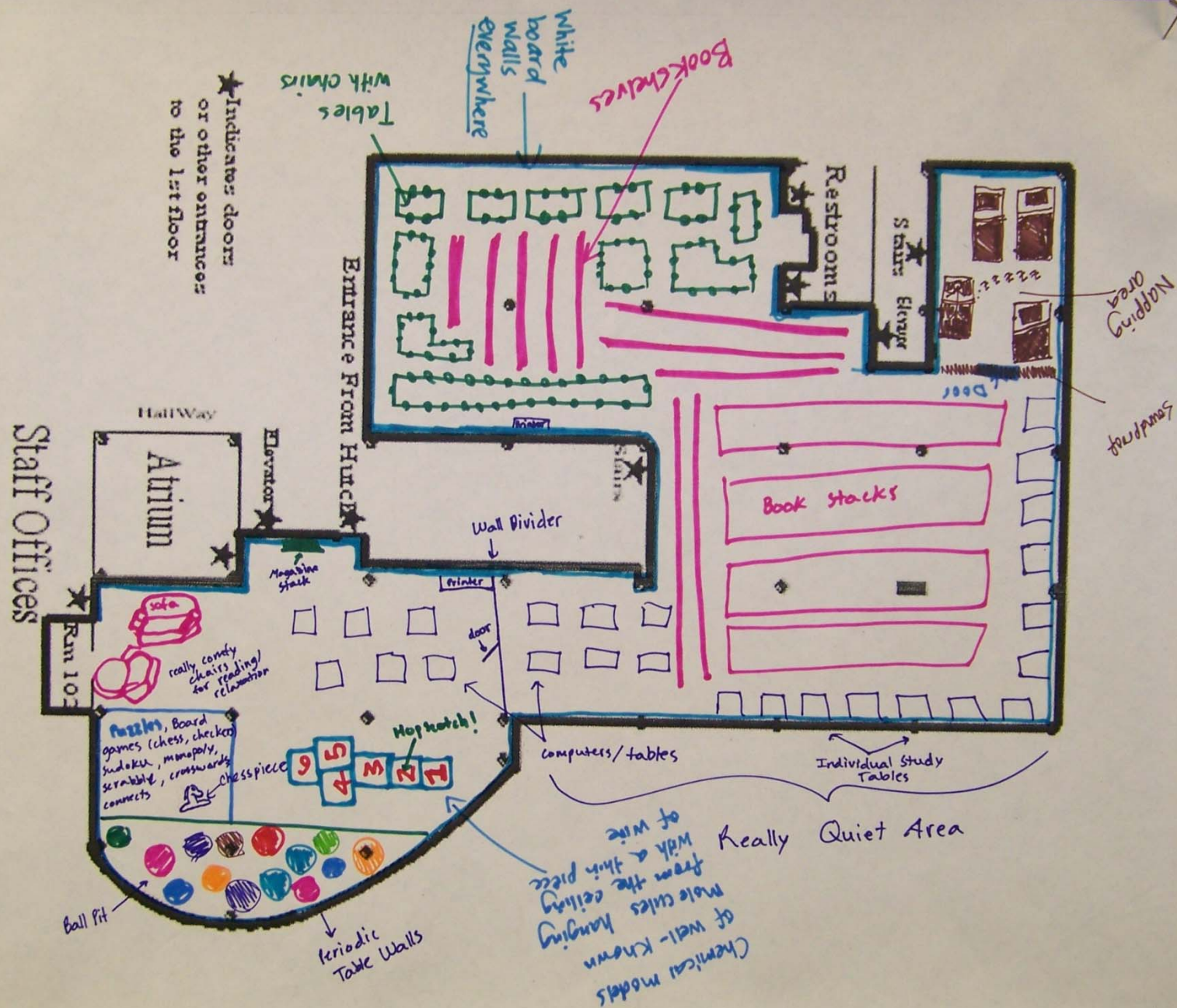
Small cubicles, same
Setup, just less table,
not as many chairs 4-5/room,
no screen.
- still has whiteboard.
- first come first serve

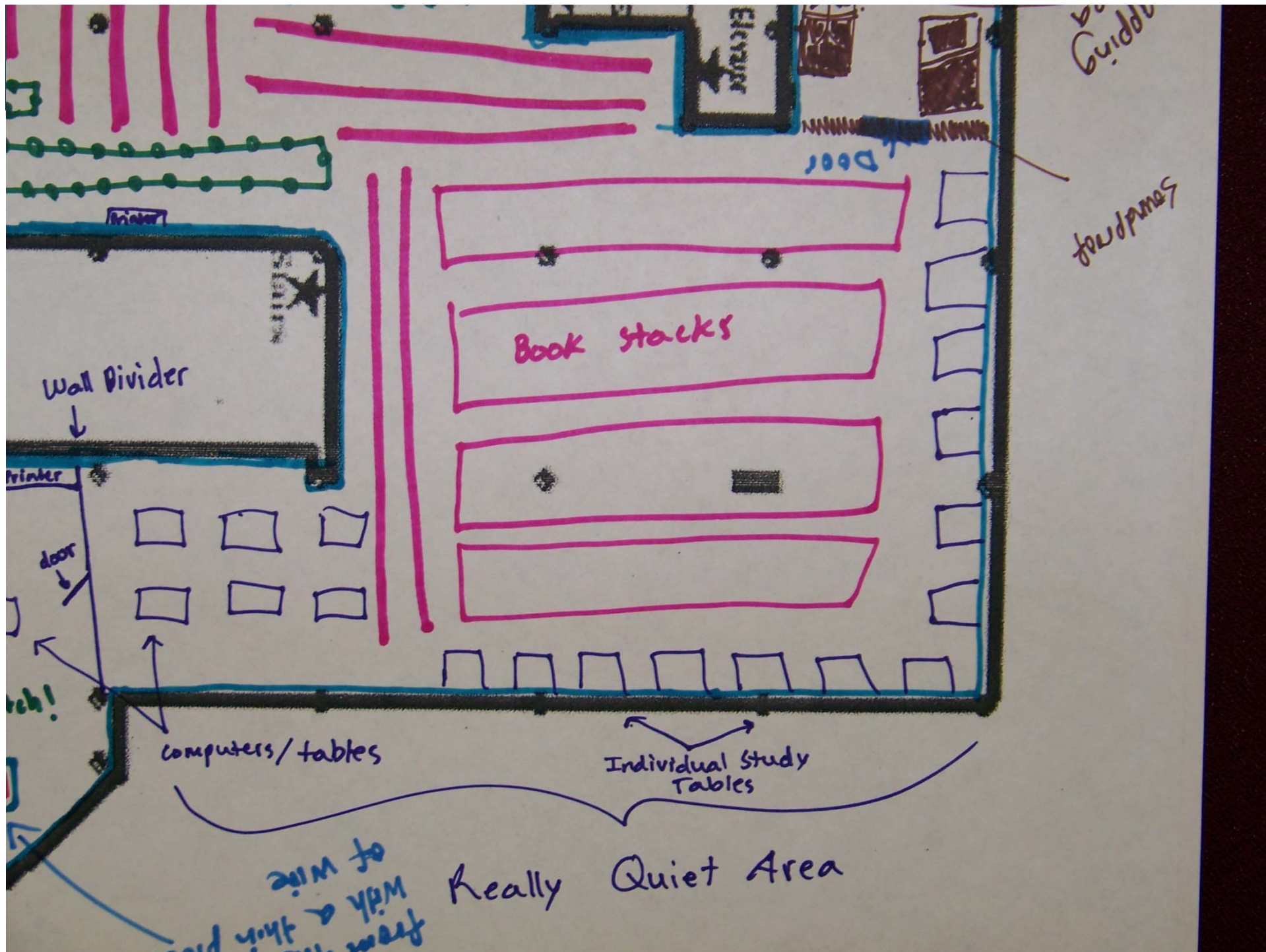
get get laptop locks,
power strips, extension cords,
desk lamps, etc.
(most popular textbooks → BIO 112,
CHM 131, ORGO, etc)

tea, coffee, etc

roll
chair

open study







Reply Cards

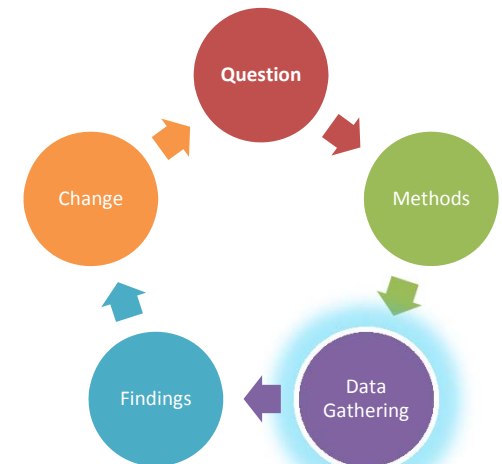
100 cards collected

- 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

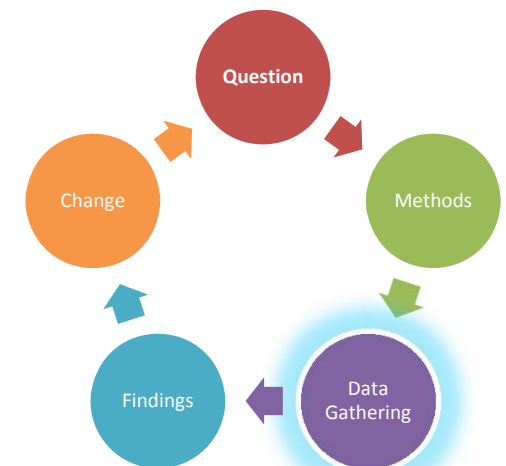




Observations

Wed	Th	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tu
202	140	90	93	168	172	115

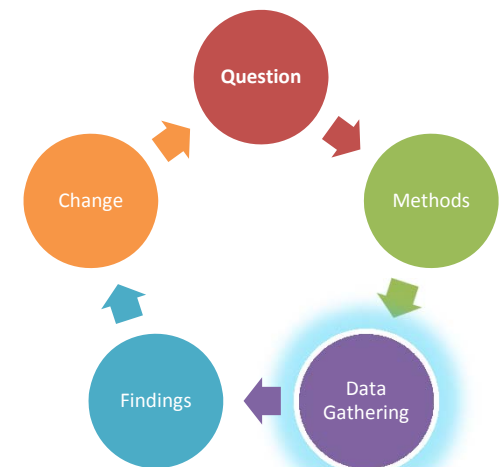
Day	W			Th			F			Sa			Su			M			Tu		
Hr	2	6	10	2	6	10	2	6	10	2	6	10	2	6	10	2	6	10	2	6	10
#	63	57	82	52	42	46	39	29	22	37	27	29	54	58	56	62	54	56	35	30	50





Proportion of Observed Students Doing Academic Work vs. Recreation

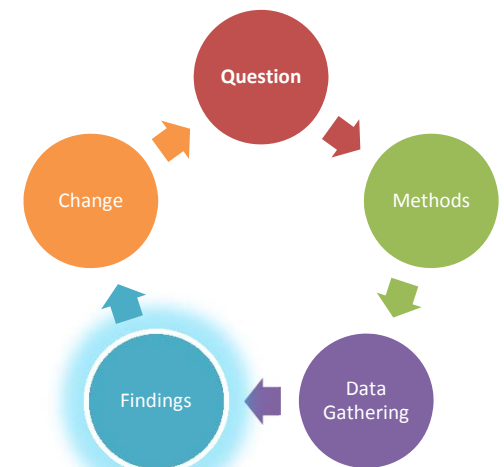
- 85% academic work
- 15% recreation





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

