
Days of Observational Study: 2 days (December 11 and 14) at 11am, 4pm and 9pm
Population: Anyone in the building.

Format: Digital photographs documenting how students use the Library work spaces. Photos taken on all three floors and of all different types of spaces.

Type: Documenting student work space use in Library. Observations

DATA

Lower Level:

3 people filling a space for 5, 11:00AM
Students at microform tables. 11:00 AM

Example of tabletop work space on lower level.
Main Level:

*Do we still need computer labs? 4:00 PM*

*High traffic, noisy area. 4:00 PM*
Nook favored by regulars. 4:00 PM

Students using makeshift space. 9:00PM
Upper Level:

Students and their belongings. 11:00 AM

Underutilized space
DISCUSSION OF THE DATA:

This data has been presented and discussed at a Library Assessment Team meeting. Here are our observations:

Lower level
- The desks in the lower level are lined up on the wall but one person uses two chairs; we see they turn them in together and put their feet up - becoming module furniture.
- Three fit comfortably in the Collaboratories, 4 is too many.
- We are surprised they use microform desk - maybe because of the chairs cushion and light versus wooden chairs?

Main level
- The tables near windows already look small with one person sitting there.
- People really like working independently in carrels by ITS; they don't seem to mind the noise, near bathroom, Do they like to people watch? Maybe people want to be seen?
- People choose the area near the Wit and reference offices, perhaps because of nice natural light there and privacy.

Main level
- Upper level seems busiest at 11am upstairs, perhaps because well lit.
- People don't always choose comfy chairs. We wondered if because they may not have power outlets nearby and there is no surface space.
- Upstairs larger pod usually not used.

General
- We see BIG change in overall numbers at 4pm. Lower level pretty much at capacity. Do they know they can use the space near the writing center? Busy at 4pm in the cafe and upper areas pretty much all full.
- Graduate study space doesn't seem to be utilized during finals - need to get swipe information.
- 9pm is much quieter
- Students are attracted to areas with outlets.
- The tables full with 4 people, although they seat 6.
- Space next to Room 302 upstairs could have more tables.

RECOMMENDATIONS

When thinking about any new renovations in the library, keep in mind:

- We cannot afford to lose a single seat in any new renovation. A table feels full when 4 people are at a 6 person table.
- Pods seating should be reconfigured—usage per sq ft of floor space is low.
- Power is always an issue!
- Individuals like light, natural and electrical.
- Students carry a lot of material. Can we get lockers?
- Flexible, portable furniture could supplement our regular configurations during high traffic times, such as finals.
- We noticed interesting gender groupings. Make gender analysis a part of future space analysis.