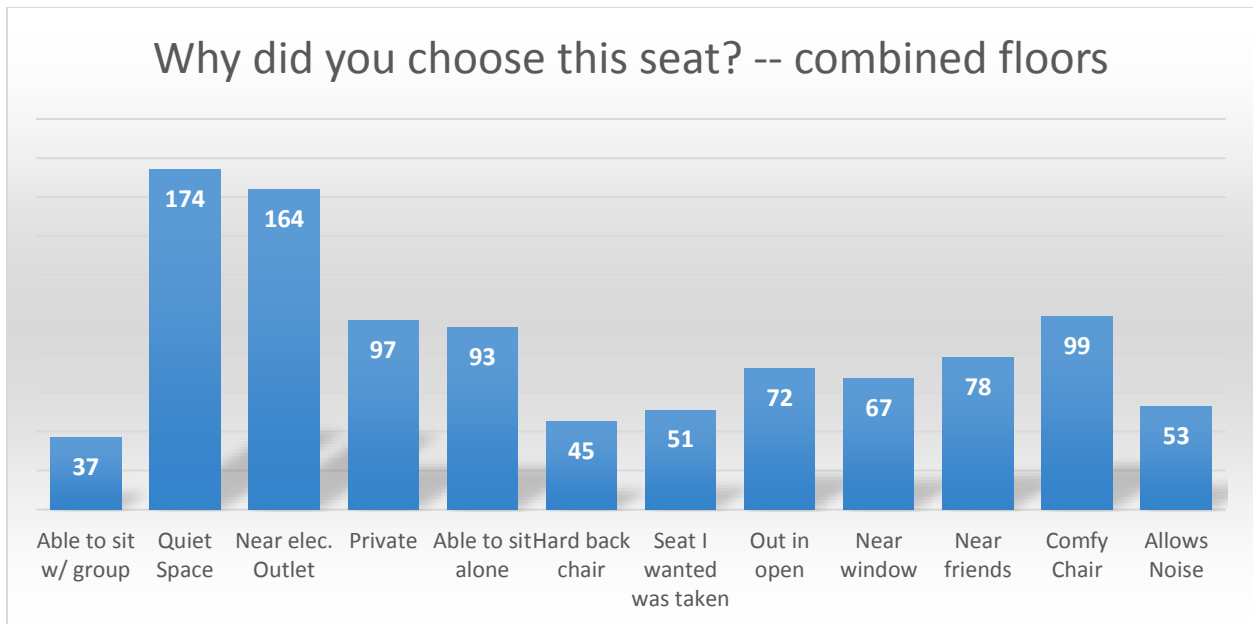


Student Seating Choice Survey, April/May 2017

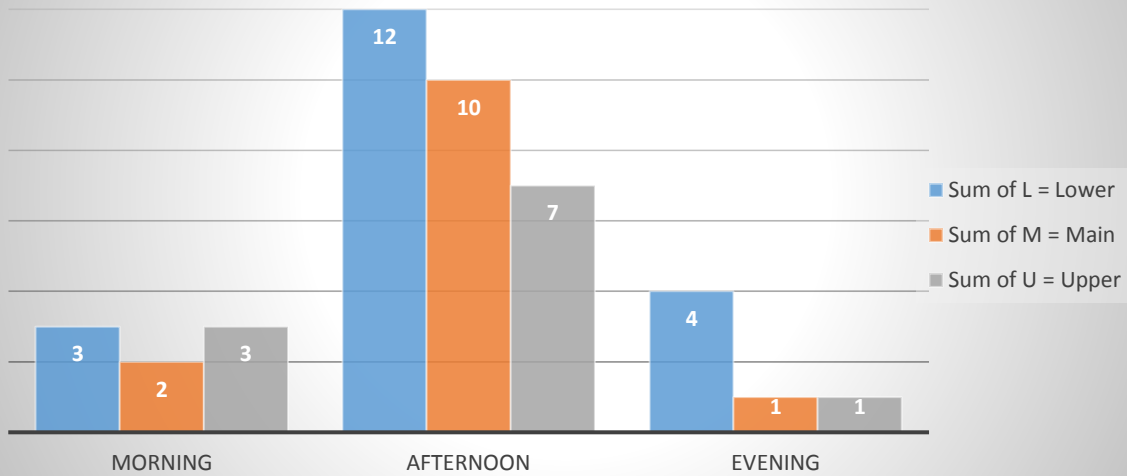
Number of respondents: 338
Population: Open to Any Patron
Format: Paper, available at seat
Type: Multiple Choice and Open- ended Question

DATA

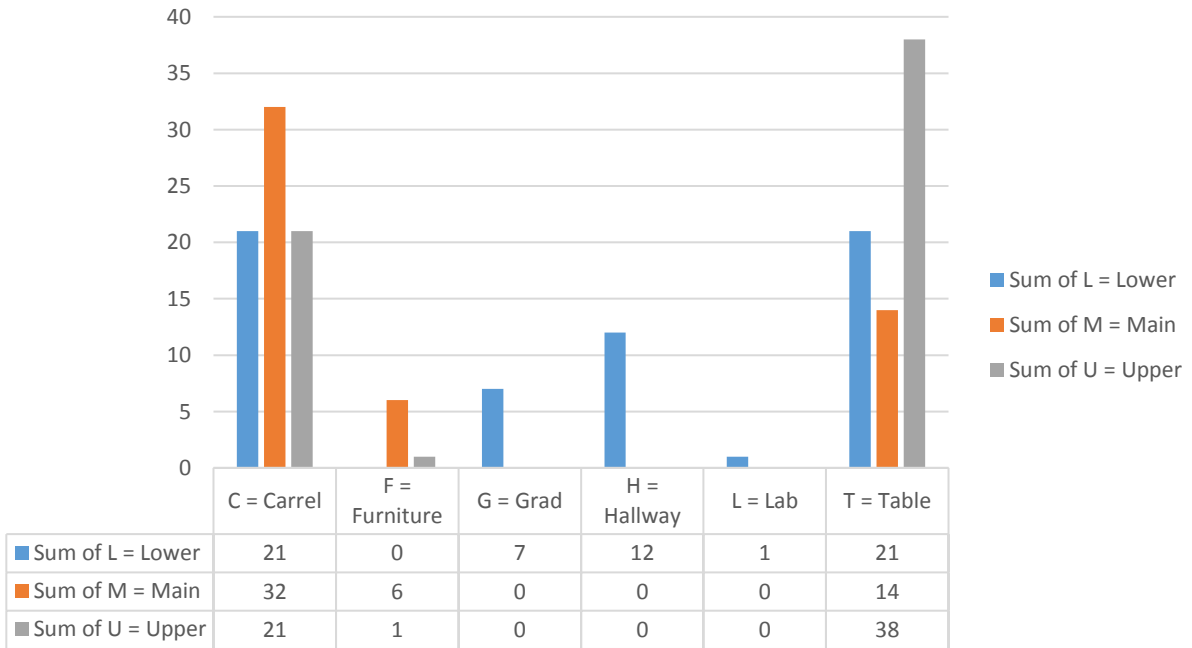
1. Multiple choice question: Why did you choose this seat? Check all that apply



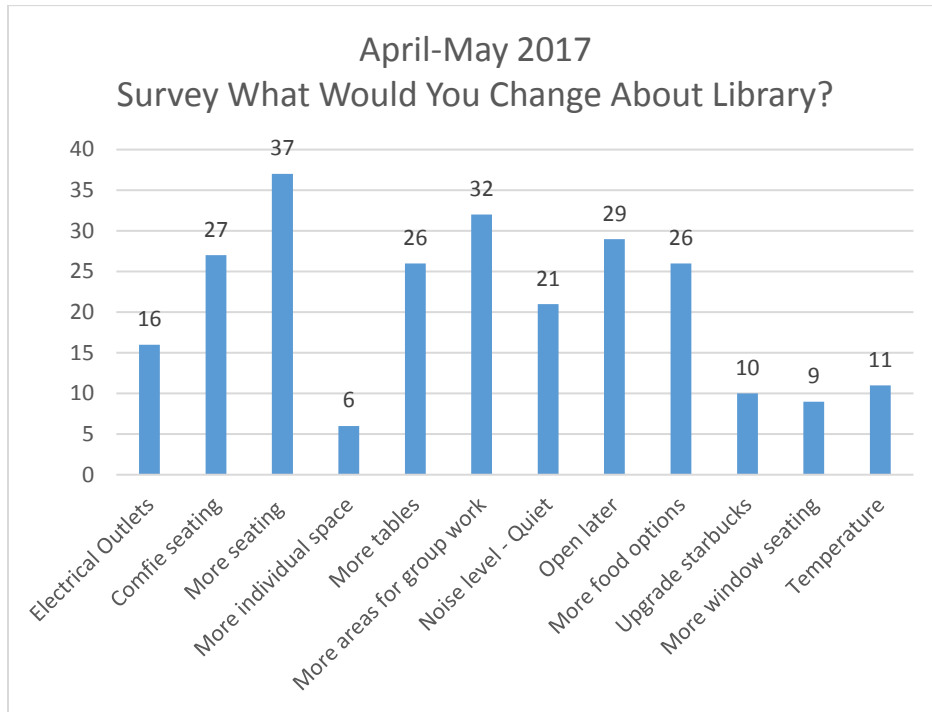
Respondents--The Seat I Wanted Was Taken



Respondants Who Selected Quiet Space



2. Short Answer: What would you change about the Library? (236 patrons answered out of 338 total respondents)



DISCUSSION OF THE DATA:

Why Did You Choose This Seat Data

The most important drivers determining student seat choice are quiet space and being near an electrical outlet. The least important drivers in choice are hard back chairs and being able to sit with a group. However, it is noted that this may be influenced by the time period of the survey, which overlapped with finals. During cross-tab analysis, several response pairings emerged:

- Able to sit with a group (37) v able to sit alone (93). People selected sitting alone at 2.5 times greater rate.
- Quiet space (174) vs. Allows noise (53). There is a clear preference for quiet space.
- Comfy chairs (99) vs. hardback chair (45). Since we have significantly more hardback chairs than comfy chairs, we surmise that when a patron selects a comfy chair, the “comfyfness” was the determining factor.
- Private seating (97) vs. Open seating (72). There was not as stark a contrast in this group pairing compared to the others. Corresponding to this, for those who want quiet space, carrels and tables were the primary choice and were equally split.

Afternoon is the most difficult time to find a seat across the board. Most respondents who could not find the seat they wanted were on the lower floor.

Seat choice patterns remain consistent regardless of time of day.

What Would You Change About The Library Data

The two highest demands were more seating and more areas for group work. Twenty-nine mentioned that they would like the library to be open later. Other top recommendations included more comfy seating, more food options, and more tables.

In summation, we conclude that students are looking for quiet, private, and space to sit alone during finals time. This may not hold true for other times of the semester.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Easy fixes:

Maintain quiet areas.

Portable space dividers/noise reducers for use during finals that students can configure as needed.

Availability of ear plugs.

Long term planning:

Improve variety and quality of food—more investigation needed.

Reconfigurations of space needs to A) increase the number of overall seats and B) to accommodate both group and private study spaces in equal measure.