Library Space Assessment

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Library Space Assessment

Abstract
Presented research and data findings of Library Space Assessment to librarians and library staff on how students use the Lavery Library.

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Undergraduate Project

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David Baronov

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Comments
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View the poster presentation of Library Space Assessment presentation here.

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Library Space Assessment

Chenisvel Nunez & Kaitlyn Shamp
Kaitlyn Shamp (Class of 2017)
Sociology major and Psychology minor

Chenisvel Nunez (Class of 2017)
Double major in Sociology and Criminology; Minor in Communications
Background: Lavery Library

- Serves entire campus
- 3 floors:
  - Quiet floor with study rooms
  - Learning Commons
  - Lower level: mixed use
- Built in 1975, Main Level remodel 2012
- ~20 Library staff
Background: Lavery Library

- 221,134 visits in ‘15-‘16 FY
  - Average of 58 visits per FTE

- Past surveys:
  - Special headcounts (2010)
  - Commuter survey (2010)
  - Architect survey (2011)
  - Library redesign survey (2013)
  - MISO survey (2013)
Background (Lit. Review)

- “Library as place” and “third space” \(^4\) \(^3\)
  - Flexible learning spaces that are neither home or the classroom
- Informal learning, a place for students to “be intentional about their learning” \(^10\)
- Library users’ needs are unique to the individual & can be task specific \(^2\) \(^6\) \(^2\)
Background (Lit. Review)

- Quiet & individual study
  - For “getting serious” \(^2348\)
  - Communal study space, but with personal boundaries \(^178\)

- Group study & non-quiet space
  - Social and informal learning space \(^{10}\)
  - Flexible learning for working collaboratively, socializing, studying alone and alone-together \(^2345810\)
Objective

● How are students using our library spaces?
  ○ Collect evidence to inform future space planning and renovations
  ○ What works? What doesn’t? What’s needed?
Mixed Methods

- Seating Sweeps -- 3x a day, 2 non-consecutive weeks (spring 2016)
- Focus Groups -- 6 focus groups by student type
- Survey -- 3-week run, undergraduates
Method: Seating Sweeps

- Anyone in library
- Lasted between 15 minutes - 1 hour
- Library staff floor by floor
- Pen and paper, then digital (Google Forms)
- Categories: Desktop, laptop, cell phone, tablet, whiteboards in use, food/drink, group work, note taking, reading, sleeping, talking, headphones, other
Method: Focus Groups

- Participants (N=41)
  - Freshmen (n=9)
  - Sophomores (n=9)
  - Juniors (n=10)
  - Seniors (n=8)
  - Graduate (n=2) and doctoral (n=3)

- ~1 hour session

- 2 sets of questions: undergraduate, graduate
Method: Survey

- Survey development based on common focus group responses
  - Questions and question types modeled after previous library surveys
- Created using Qualtrics
- Piloted with small group of students
- To boost response rate, emails sent through Student Government
- Distributed only to undergraduates
- N=2948
Findings: Seating Sweeps

● Flexible furniture
  ○ Chairs, tables, whiteboards for privacy

● Technology
  ○ Multiple, simultaneous device usage
    ■ Tablets, laptops, phones, desktops
      ● 41.5% of users during the two weeks of sweeps were using at least 2 devices
      ● High use of outlets

● Collaboration
  ○ Group work around one computer, rather than group workstations
Completed Sweeps Floor Plan
Findings: Focus Groups

● Most common uses for the library:
  ○ Studying
  ○ Computer use/printing
  ○ Work on group projects

● Services and features that students like about the library:
  ○ Interlibrary loan
  ○ Librarians and research desk
  ○ Group work tables with TV screens

● Services and features that students would like the library to add:
  ○ Stress relief room
  ○ Extended hours
  ○ More study rooms on the quiet floor
Findings: Survey

- Monday – Thursday and Finals Week are popular times
- Academic activities are primary focus
- Academic activities are highly tech-oriented or collaborative
- Quiet floor is most utilized
- Lower level (basement) is underutilized
Question: “I think the library needs...”
Limitations

- **Seating Sweeps:**
  - Multiple recorders’ interpretations

- **Focus Groups:**
  - Low graduate participation

- **Survey:**
  - Not a random sample
  - Graduate populations excluded (low participation in focus groups)
  - Excluded demographics (differentiation between commuters/residents)
Recommendations

- **Small, incremental changes:**
  - New, more smaller tables on upper level
  - Updated seating options
  - Promote available spaces

- **Large scale changes:**
  - Prioritize in Campus Master Plan
  - More outlets (60.7%)
  - New HVAC (57.6%)
  - Grab ‘n Go Foods (59.8%)
  - More lighting (natural and task)
Thank You

- Faculty advisers: Patricia Tweet, PhD & David Baronov, PhD
- Library staff: Kate Ross, Marianne Simmons, Brian Lynch, Lynn Seavy, Stacy Celata


Questions?