Supporting Scholars in Training: A User Needs Survey of a Graduate Study Space

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Auburn University Libraries
Our Previous Graduate-Faculty Study Area

(Library-facing side)
Our Previous Graduate-Faculty Study Area

Space nearest outside window
Faculty and Graduate Students: Help Us Improve This Space

Auburn University Libraries would like to understand how this space is being used. Please complete a questionnaire each time you use this space during the week of 11/28-12/4. Questionnaires are located on the tables and on the stand near the door.

Information gathered from the questionnaire will be used to assess and improve space and services for graduate students and faculty.

Questionnaires
June 20-26, 2016
July 25-31, 2016
August 22-28, 2016
September 19-25, 2016
October 17-23, 2016
November 28-December 4, 2016
Grad/Faculty Study Space Survey

Date: ______________________

Status: Faculty  Grad Student  Other____

School/College/Dept. ______________________

Time spent in Faculty/Grad Study Space today:
About: 30 min.  1 hour  2 hours  3 hours
4 hours  5 hours  more than 5 hours

Time spent at: (circle all that apply)
Table area  Couch area  Carrel

How often do you use this space?
Daily  Few times a Week  Few times a month
Few times a semester

Time spent: (circle all that apply)
Writing for Dissertation or Thesis
Writing for coursework
Other writing ______________________
Reading for dissertation or Thesis
Reading for Coursework
Other reading ______________________
Looking for library resources
Looking for non-library information resources
Working on teaching responsibilities
Working on a presentation
Working on job hunting
Organizing self or resources
Other ______________________

Did anything prevent you from accomplishing what you wanted to do?  YES  NO
If yes, what?
________________________________________

Please list any additional comments/suggestions you have about this space on the back
Count Sheet for Graduate Student/Faculty Quiet Study Space

Week of November 9-13th, 2016 (week runs Wednesday to Sunday)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day of Week</th>
<th>Time of day</th>
<th># in couch area using laptop/tablet</th>
<th># in couch area not using device</th>
<th># at tables using laptop/tablet</th>
<th># at tables not using device</th>
<th># at carrels using laptop/tablet</th>
<th># at carrels not using device</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>11/9</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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<td>11/12</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>11/13</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Counting
July 6-10, 2016
July 20-24, 2016
September 14-18, 2016
October 12-16, 2016
November 9-12, 2016

Faculty and Graduate Students: Help Us Improve This Space

You may notice Library staff counting users of this space during the week of November 9-13, 2016.

Auburn University Libraries is conducting a study to understand how this space is being used.

Information letters explaining the complete study are available on the table inside the door.
User Demographics

- Grad students: 87%
- Faculty: 11%
- Visiting scholar: 1%
- Undergrad: 1%

Legend:
- Grad students
- Faculty
- Visiting scholar
- Undergrad
Time Spent in Percentages

- 30 minutes: 1%
- 1 hour: 7%
- 2 hours: 20%
- 3 hours: 11%
- 4 hours: 11%
- 5 hours: 25%
- > 5 hours: 25%
User Activities

- Reading for coursework: 45
- Writing for coursework: 34
- Writing for diss or thesis: 34
- Looking for library resources: 22
- Working on a presentation: 17
- Working on teaching responsibilities: 16
- Organizing self or resources: 16
- Other writing: 15
- Other: 12
- Other reading: 12
- Working on job hunting: 7
- Looking for non-library information resources: 7
- Other: 4
Comments from Users: Environment / Atmosphere

“This space is much appreciated, there is no other place that allows for such focused, undisturbed study.”

“The isolation from the undergraduates isn’t something I believed would make a huge difference in studying, but boy, I was wrong.”

“Another table at the window would be cool. So I can gaze outside and wonder what the sun feels like”

“It would be so useful if the library were open consistently on Fri. Sat. evening hours. As a working student weekends are the only times I have to come to library & work on my dissertation.”

“suggestion: put a scanner-type thing on the door so that grad students and faculty have to scan their Tiger Card to get in (verify status) and undergrads can't come up in here and talk while I'm trying to dissertate!”
Additional Feedback: Furnishings & Facility

Did anything prevent you from accomplishing what you wanted?
“Facebook and therefore only myself”

“I’m thinking on my own research problem in Mathematics in this room for about 4 hours every day. ...it could be great if there were a couple of wide and comfortable chairs. Current ones are good but small for the people who are XL like me 😊”

“poor lighting. Lightbulbs and lamps should be higher wattage”

“Love this space- a write board would be helpful!”

“Too Hot!”
vs.
“This air conditioning is too! cold!!!

carrels should have outlets that don’t require crawling on the floor”

“No PCs”
Our Recommendations

- Swipe Access
- Furniture Changes
- White boards, PCs
- Signage
- Extended Hours
- Follow-up with users
Swipe Access
Current Layout of Study Area
Plan for Redesigned Study Area
Rendering of Redesigned Study Area

View from library side
Rendering of Redesigned Study Area

View from window
HUMANSCALE – INFINITY TASK LAMP
CLAMP OR WALL MOUNT

TEKNION SABRINA TASK CHAIR W/ MESH BACK,
UPHOLSTERED SEAT AND BLACK BASE.
10 w/ arms, 10 w/ out arms

Worksurface
power cube
Other Wish List Items
Signage

- Information about library services
- Promotion of graduate events
Extended Hours

Library of Architecture, Design, & Construction
Graduate & Professional Writing Center
What’s Ahead

- Promotion
- Collecting Feedback

- Additional Study
  - ITHAKA S+R Faculty Survey
  - ITHAKA S+R Graduate & Professional Student Survey
Questions?

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