

Field Ethnography

Library Test Kitchen

Seminar 09125
Tuesdays, 10am - 1pm
Fall 2012
Graduate School of
Design
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA



Assignment

Document the physical and social life of Harvard Library space.

Deliverables

1. Documentation

a.) Photograph: Discreetly photograph interesting elements of your assigned libraries with a cellphone camera. Tag, describe and email your photos to Time/Slice (see instructions at bottom).

b.) Spend time over the course of a day at one of your assigned libraries. Document your observations. Consider: how people use the spaces, behaviors, ebbs and flows of activity, both patrons and staff. Asking people opinions and questions is fair game. Write a blog post with your observations and analysis.

2. Design

Choose one behavior or trend from your research and pitch a design intervention that responds to it in some way. The intervention can solve a problem, but it might also aggravate it, redirect it, whatever - as long as it is a response to a specific observation. Keep it specific, something you could (with a little more time) build out. Package it as a blog post. Some textual explanation is probably necessary, but focus on supporting visuals.

Expectations for Exercises

Exercise II: Field Ethnography

- Exercises are delivered as blog posts. Your post should include all visual documentation along with articulation of your thinking.
- Print-ready, 300dpi images should be deposited in the Dropbox /Exercise-# folder.
- Be prepared to present your work to the class for discussion.