

Study Spaces

How might we improve study spaces on campus?

What components make up a study space?

How do people interact with these components?



User Observations - MAIN LIBRARY



Computers and printers
...but no people?

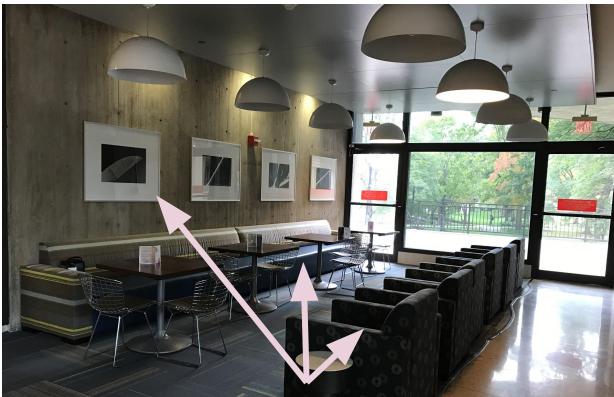


Different seating options

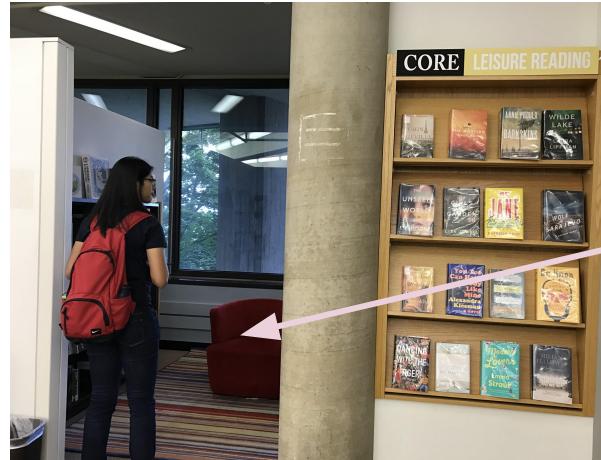
Mix of natural and artificial lighting



Outlets and signages



Cozier ambience - benches, sofas, artwork



Leisure reading for breaks?

More seating options - soft chairs

User Observations - NORRIS

Big windows = natural light



CATEGORIES THAT HAVE ARisen:

| | | |
|----------|---|---------------|
| Physical | - | Ambience |
| Social | - | Customization |

Food/drink options

Communal Table

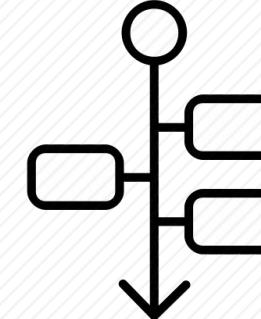


Working individually

various seating options

How can we better conduct our research?

- Better structured surveys...
 - Ask fewer and more specific questions
 - Utilize demographics
 - Are concise and easy to answer
- Longitudinal observations/research methods



Sources:

- 1) Gotsche, Holliday "Designing a library environment that promotes learning"
- 2) Bennett "First Questions for Designing Higher Education Learning Spaces"
- 3) Applegate, "The Library Is for Studying: Student Preferences for Study Space"

What can guide our research?

- Observe entire ecosystem → **what gap we can fill?**
- People have different study habits → **how can study spaces be adapted to them?**
- Design properties to consider:
 - **POSTURE / ORIENTATION / SURFACE / AMBIENCE / DENSITY / STORAGE**
- Layout to try: **COFFEE SHOP**



Sources:

- 1) Applegate, "The Library Is for Studying: Student Preferences for Study Space"
- 2) Doorley & Witthoft, *Make Space*

Developing Our Understanding

- **Synthesis** - compiling and coding our findings so far
 - Coded and prioritized results → factors to look out for
- **Survey** - *who/what/where* (to understand scope)
- **Interview** - *how/why* (open-ended and digging deep)
 - Students
 - Experts (Librarians, Mudd Library Designer)

