Virginia Tech
University Libraries

Discovery Teams
Spring 2012

Team Members
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Team Theme/Topic
• Group work
KEY OBSERVATIONS RELATED TO YOUR THEME
(5-6 major trends)

• Comfort
  • Less institutional feel (more café-like or coffee shop)

• Convenience

• Flexible workspaces and furniture

• Additional display screens, whiteboards, increased Wi-Fi accessibility, more rooms/closed off spaces

• Lighting – like natural light
SURPRISING OBSERVATIONS / COMMENTS
(3-5 unexpected things that you encountered)

• Number of people in the library not using library resources (most of what they needed was via Scholar)
• How much seating would change in a small time frame (e.g. lots of group study to 1-2 at a table w/in an hour difference)
• How poor the Wi-Fi connection was considering it was just upgraded
• Most students hated the Math Emporium (giant bug-zapper)
“WHY THIS SPACE?”
(3-5 qualities that students preferred)

• Convenience was #1 by all groups interviewed

• Feel of the space (ambience of surroundings)

• Ability to concentrate in space, either with activity (e.g. white noise) or in quiet areas

• Comfortable furniture

• Social aspect – seen-be-seen
“WHY OTHER SPACES?”
(3-5 qualities that students preferred other locations)

• Convenient to:
  • Home
  • Food
  • Parking
  • Classes

• Comfortable, quiet, ambiance, lighting

Above depended on to what they needed at that time

• Outlets were available
“WHAT HAPPENS IN THIS SPACE?” (or with tools) (activities, process, how are they using the space/tools)

• Studying
  • Homework, prepping for class, projects, research papers, not always working on same thing

• Facebook
  • Often flipping between work and checking site

• Socializing

• Eating
THINGS TO FOLLOW-UP ON
(3-5 things that need more research)

• Furniture types that would work best, be most flexible and accommodating to different needs and body types

• Flexible group study spaces that are somewhat closed off, yet have whiteboard and/or video display and still social w/what’s going on “outside” area

• How to improve Wi-Fi access

• Where to put more outlets!
• Some things we can’t change (e.g. convenient locations) but maybe we can partner with those spaces to include library poster/ad for where to get help on research?

• Students were very enthusiastic about sharing their ideas (some overly so)

• Students excited about the idea of library renovations