

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!

ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO SHARE

- 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



War Memorial Pylons



Litton Reaves Memorial Lounge



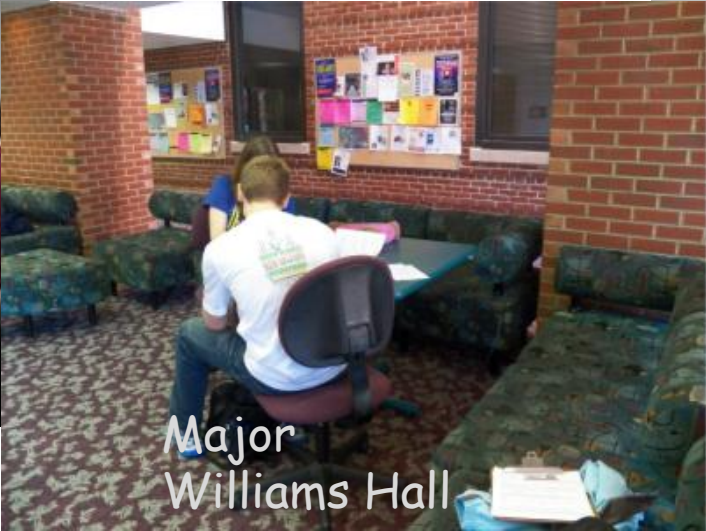
Outside Greenberry's/Library



Emily Jane Hilscher Student Lounge



Whittemore Hall



Major Williams Hall



Cheatham Hall