Purpose & Goals

In the fall of 2021 the ISU Library surveyed students supported by our campus Student Accessibility Services department. The goal of the survey was to learn about library usage and associated needs of students with disabilities.

Design & Methodology

A mixed methods study was conducted using a Qualtrics survey sent to 1400 students served by our campus Student Accessibility Services department. The survey allowed students to self-identify their disabilities and to provide comments related to the accessibility of library spaces. The project was a collaborative effort between the library’s assessment department, the library’s Assistant Dean for DEI, and the campus Student Accessibility Services department.

Selected Findings

- Most responses were submitted by Neurodiverse students
- Need for more quiet study spaces & procedures for maintaining quiet
- Need for more very low-distraction and private study spaces
- Mapping and signage – Knowing what to expect and where it’s at
- Need for dedicated neurodiverse-friendly spaces

Selected Actions

- Improved library website content related to accessibility
- Set up a library website page titled: Accessible and Sensory-Friendly Spaces
- Add and highlight accessible and sensory friendly spaces information using the library’s Stackmap explore wayfinding tool
- Created new DEI programming designed to increase library staff awareness of neurodiverse student needs