Longitudinal Assessment of “User-Driven” Library Commons Spaces

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Robert Fox
Ameet Doshi
Three Library Commons Renovations

- Library West Commons – 2002
  - Library Student Advisory Board - 2005

- Library East Commons – 2006
  - Institute Laptop Requirement - 2007

- 2 West Commons - 2009
Library West Commons
Library East Commons
2 West Commons
Student Use of Library Facilities

LibQUAL+ (spring 2010)
Study Purpose

• Longitudinal Observation
  – To what degree does renovation impact utilization of the renovated space?
  – How does usage of renovated spaces change over time?
  – What effect is there on overall utilization of library spaces?

• Qualitative Survey
  – Satisfaction with four design themes students identified prior to construction
  – Open-ended services satisfaction

• Literature Review
  – Fill gap - Lack of similar longitudinal studies
Methodology

- 2008 Observations
  - Monday – Friday  4 observations daily
  - Total number of individuals
  - Total number of groups
  - Limited observations on group sizes
  - Limited laptop counts
Methodology

2010 Observations

- Monday – Friday  4 observations daily
- Total number of individuals
- Total number of groups
- Sizes for all groups
- Complete laptop counts
Survey

- Administered to students using 2 West Commons
- Measured satisfaction with 4 design themes
  - Power
  - Lighting
  - Furniture/Aesthetics
  - “Defined yet open” group spaces
- Open-ended services satisfaction question
Findings (2008-2010)

- Overall usage
  - LEC 2.7% ↑ 2W 94.0% ↑ Library 25.1% ↑

- Number of groups
  - LEC 8.7% ↓ 2W 117.4% ↑ Library 65.4% ↑

- Group sizes
  - Ranged from 2.2 – 2.9 (persons/group)
  - Little variation from 2008

- Laptop usage rate
  - 2008 2W: 33.6% Library: 40.5%
  - 2010 2W: 70.5% Library: 49.0%
Findings

Survey (Scale: 1=inadequate  5=great)
\[n=103\]

Power: 4.28

- “It’s real easy to plug in almost anywhere.”
- “Not having to search/fight for outlets makes the library much easier to study in.”
Lighting: 4.49

- “Outside light and inside light work well together to create an aesthetically pleasing environment.”
- “Love the bright lights! Doesn't feel like a prison like before.”
Furniture/Aesthetics: 4.44

- “Oh my god, it is the perfect studying chair ever.”
- “Good comfortable chairs, nice tables, good group work atmosphere.”
- “Love the new set up, especially white boards. Booths are comfortable.”
“Defined yet open”: 4.43

- “You have your own space, but can still not be isolated from the rest of the library.”
- “This really is the perfect place to do group work, because there is so much freedom to move around and use various resources.”
Summary

• The 2 West commons is attracting more students and groups subsequent to its renovation.

• The 2 West commons is attracting students and groups away from the previously renovated LEC.

• Overall usage of the library increased subsequent to the 2 West renovation.

• The need for collaborative spaces in the library continues to grow.

• Laptop utilization is up somewhat for the whole library and significantly for 2 West.

• High level of satisfaction with 2 West renovation.

• Project impact on library renovations and campus projects.
Thank you

Project photos and documentation available: http://librarycommons.gatech.edu/2west/

Questions?