



Longitudinal Assessment of “User-Driven” Library Commons Spaces

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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



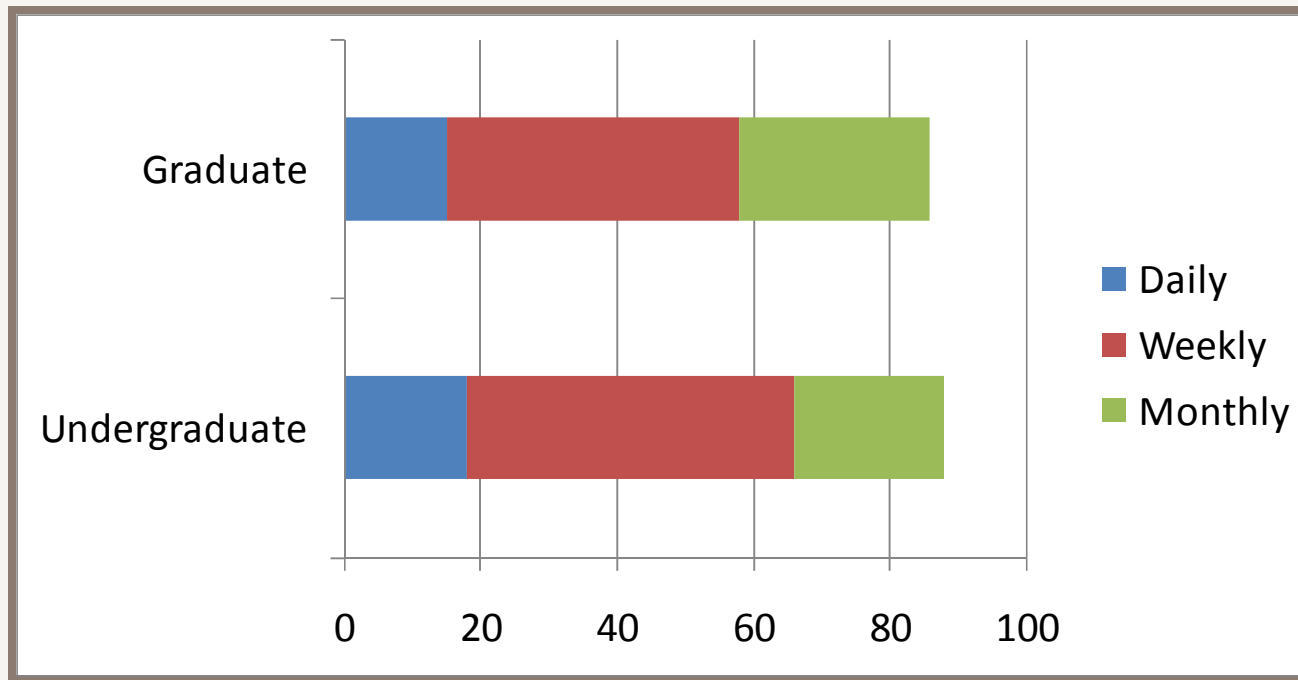
Library East Commons



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?