Introduction

Recent collection downsizing has enabled us to expand our footprint for individual and group study spaces. Many of the group spaces contain library -installed technology, such as:

- computers with standard or dual monitors,
- computers with wall-mounted screens, and
- wall-mounted screens with technology connector cables.

Additionally, many students now use their own technology (laptops, tablets, etc.), or borrow laptops and tablets from our circulation desk for use within the Libraries.

As we prepared to configure more spaces for groups, we wanted to determine if our current group study configurations were being used as intended. Are these spaces being used by individuals or groups? And is the library-installed technology within these spaces being used or not?

This data would help guide our decision making on how best to configure and equip new group spaces in other library areas.

Methodology

An observational study was conducted to evaluate the use of the thirty-one (31) group study spaces that contained library-installed technology and were not already designated for specific purposes (such as instructional, presentation practice, or conference rooms).

Over a period of three (3) weeks, we recorded if each space was being used, how many people were using each space, and if library-installed technology, personal technology, or no technology was being used.

Eighty (80) observations were made between February 8 and February 28, 2018, using a customized Qualtrics form on an iPad.

The observations were conducted between 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, when the various spaces were used the most. The observations were not scheduled; they were done at various times throughout the day. Each observation of the 31 spaces took between 10 to 15 minutes.

The observations were tabulated and evaluated to determine how each of the 5 group study configurations were being used by our students.

Research Question:

Is the library-installed technology in our group study spaces being used by students?

Results Summary

- All of the group spaces were in use by more than 50% of the time.
- The Collaboratories, Large Rooms, and Cubicles appear to be the most popular group study spaces.
- The Booths are also popular with groups, but the library-installed technology was used the least within them.
- In the Small Rooms, the library-installed technology was used a great deal, but much more so by individuals than by groups.

Recommendations & Implementation

- Library-installed technology in our group spaces enhances our students' ability to collaboratively work and study. Even though many students choose to use their own devices, we need to continue to provide this technology in appropriate spaces. We have already begun to install wall-mounted screens with the ability to screencast from personal devices instead of using wired connectors.
- When creating additional group study spaces, seating for 4 or more is preferred.
- Semi-enclosed group study spaces are preferred, if possible, for library-installed technology use.
- For the Booths, the library-installed technology is not necessary. We have already begun to phase out this technology, but we will continue to provide the Booths for group use.
- For the Small Rooms, continue to provide the library-installed technology as it is used heavily by individuals. Because of this documented heavy use, we have already chosen to install library-provided technology in other similar small rooms.
- Explore other options for group study rooms and for library-installed technology configurations.

Future Plans

- Continue to investigate options for new group study spaces and library technology within the Libraries.
- When the next series of group study configurations and library-provided technology are installed, this study will be repeated to determine if our configuration decisions made a difference in how our students use these spaces.
- The anticipated timeframe for the next study is Feb 2019.

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**Group Study Space Configurations & Findings**

![Diagram of group study spaces configurations](image)

**Data Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Space Type</th>
<th>Collaboratories</th>
<th>Large Rooms</th>
<th>Cubicles</th>
<th>Small Rooms</th>
<th>Booths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of Spaces</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Views</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>640</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unique Views</td>
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<td>84.6%</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>84.6%</td>
<td>99.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Space in Use</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>93.3%</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>91.8%</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by 1 user</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by 2+ users</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>84.0%</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>98.8%</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using Both Library &amp; Own Tech</td>
<td>66.36%</td>
<td>16.44%</td>
<td>69.15%</td>
<td>81.16%</td>
<td>13.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only Using Library Tech</td>
<td>31.16%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>42.11%</td>
<td>27.65%</td>
<td>4.31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only Using Own Tech</td>
<td>40.9%</td>
<td>85.38%</td>
<td>199.56%</td>
<td>76.25%</td>
<td>302.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Using Tech</td>
<td>20.12%</td>
<td>24.21%</td>
<td>44.12%</td>
<td>62.12%</td>
<td>43.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Library Use</td>
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<td>11.26%</td>
<td>111.31%</td>
<td>357.72%</td>
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<td>8.0%</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by 2+ users</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>92.0%</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**If You Install It ... Will They Use it?**

Group Study Spaces and Student Use of Library-Installed Technology

Terry W. Brandsma, Information Technology Librarian and Associate Professor

University Libraries, UNC Greensboro

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**Group Study Spaces Configurations & Findings**

- **Collaboratories**
  - 4 semi-enclosed spaces
  - Computer, movable large monitor, whiteboard, and a table with 6+ chairs

- **Large Rooms**
  - 2 large rooms
  - Computer, movable large monitor, whiteboard, and a table with 12 chairs

- **Cubicles**
  - 8 semi-enclosed spaces
  - Computer, wall-mounted monitor, whiteboard, and a table with 4 chairs

- **Small Rooms**
  - 11 semi-rooms
  - Computer, dual monitors, whiteboard, and 2 to 3 chairs

- **Booths**
  - 8 spaces
  - Computer or connection cables, wall-mounted monitor, seating for 4

**Research Question:**

Is the library-installed technology in our group study spaces being used by students?