

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

Group Study Spaces and Student Use of Library-Installed Technology

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Research Question:

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

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 varying 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.

Group Study Space 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

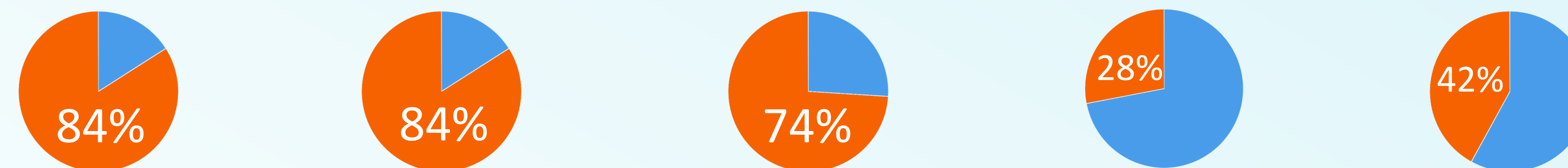
Small Rooms

- 11 small rooms
- Computer, dual monitors, whiteboard, and 2 to 3 chairs

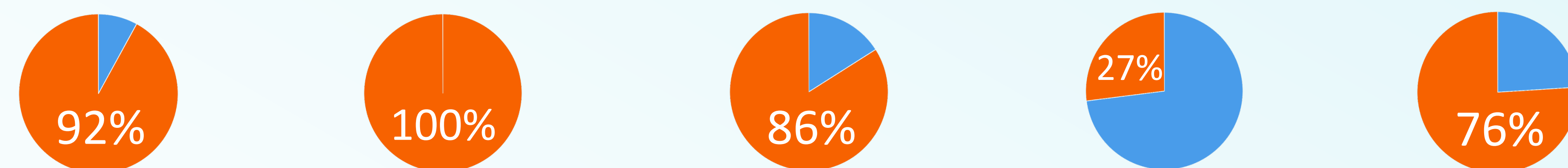
Booths

- 6 spaces
- Computer or connection cables, wall-mounted monitor, seating for 4

What percent was group use - when the space was occupied?



What percent was group use - when the library technology was being used?



Data Summary

Comparison Value	Collaboratories	Large Rooms	Cubicles	Small Rooms	Booths
# of Spaces	4	2	8	11	6
Total Views	320	160	640	880	480
Space in Use	181 56.6%	111 69.4%	354 55.3%	495 56.3%	362 75.4%
by 1 user	29 16.0%	18 16.2%	92 26.0%	355 71.7%	208 57.5%
by 2+ users	152 84.0%	93 83.8%	262 74.0%	140 28.3%	154 42.5%
Using Both Library & Own Tech	66 36.5%	16 14.4%	69 19.5%	81 16.4%	13 3.6%
Only Using Library Tech	21 11.6%	5 4.5%	42 11.9%	276 55.8%	4 1.1%
Only Using Own Tech	74 40.9%	65 58.6%	199 56.2%	76 15.4%	302 83.4%
Not Using Tech	20 11.0%	24 21.6%	44 12.4%	62 12.5%	43 11.9%
Total Library Tech Use	87 48.1%	21 18.9%	111 31.4%	357 72.1%	17 4.7%
by 1 user	7 8.0%	0 0.0%	15 13.5%	261 73.1%	4 23.5%
by 2+ users	80 92.0%	21 100.0%	96 86.5%	96 26.9%	13 76.5%

Results Summary

- All of the group spaces were in use 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 is 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 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 time frame for the next study is Feb 20 19.