“Some kinda privacy when I study”
Students in the College Library

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Library Drawing Activity

Get out your pens and pencils!

1. Draw a map of your library on the handout

2. Identify 1 place in your library that works well for your users

3. Identify 1 place in your library that does not work well for your users
Undergraduate Scholarly Habits
Ethnography Project

• Where are students doing their academic work?

• Why do they choose those places? How do they make them work?

• What tools do they use or need?
The Study

30 student interviews at each college:
  • Photo Surveys
  • Mapping Diaries
  • Retrospective Research Process Interviews

10 semi-structured interviews with faculty at each college
Student Workspaces at Home
Academic Work in the Library
“It’s like an island in the middle of the sea of bookshelves. [. . .] It’s very easy to not come across it so it’s usually quiet. That’s why I like it.”
“I have, like, some privacy which is, uh, a thing lacking at. . . So, I have some kinda privacy when I study.”
“If I find it too heavy I don’t [bring my] laptop, I borrow one from the library.”
Library Study Frustrations
“It says it’s a Learning Resource Center but in actuality it’s a Hang Out With Your Friends and Look at Your Cousin’s Wedding Pictures Center . . . on Facebook.”
What can we do?
“When I go home, I get distracted easily. My mom's there, cleaning the room, or watching TV, [. . .] or the computer is always there. [. . .] Here, it's very quiet, you know, you can't be loud, you can't talk, so I like being under those rules here. I can concentrate a lot better, and I'm actually doing a lot better now in school than last semester.”
Qualitative studies in libraries

Large scale

Medium scale

Small scale

PROJECT
Information Literacy

UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

AURARIA LIBRARY

ERIAL
Ethnographic Research in Illinois Academic Libraries

FRESNO STATE
Henry Madden Library

MIT Libraries
Questions?

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Photo: Robert Barney
References

http://www.erialproject.org/publications/toolkit/


References


Regalado, Mariana and Smal, Maura A. (forthcoming, 2015). “I am more productive in the library because it’s quiet:” Commuter students in the college library. *College & Research Libraries, 77*(11). [http://crl.acrl.org/content/early/2015/02/05/crl14-696.full.pdf+html](http://crl.acrl.org/content/early/2015/02/05/crl14-696.full.pdf+html)