

Collaborative Design:

Partnering with Students to Improve Library
Spaces and Services

Daniel J. Harper, M.I.D., Ph.D.

Katy Mathews, M.A., M.L.I.S., Ph.D.

Academic Library Association of Ohio Annual Conference
November 2, 2018

The best student-centered learning experience in America



OHIO
UNIVERSITY

Project Overview

Junior Interior Architecture Studio

Project Title: Fine Arts Library of the Future

- Program: explore broadly and deeply
 - Response: books
 - Response: programmatic offerings (beyond aesthetics)
 - Response: human support
- Evidence-based design

Librarian Consultation

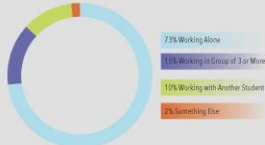
- Tour of library
- Overview of library mission
- Overview of library operations and initiatives
- Practical considerations
 - Day-to-day work needs
 - Practicality of furniture

The Fine Arts Library of the Future

Kristin Stubbs

Research

Academic libraries today have found themselves at a crossroads. The users wants and needs have changed with new technologies and changing study habits. Traditionally people have always gone to libraries to acquire knowledge through books. Today, students mainly want to go to the library to find a quiet and individual place to study. In a recent study, the Gensler research team (a world-wide architecture firm) found 73% of students are working alone, 15% are working in a group of three or more, 10% are working with another student, and the remaining 2% are doing something else. Gensler also found that library utilization rates (used seats vs. number available) are on average, below 25%. (1)



With the current digital age, the circulation of books has decreased, even though people generally prefer to read from physical book as opposed to a screen. With this digital age, most people tend to assume that everyone is working on a computer or other digital device. Gensler's research team found something different. They found that 65% of students are working with the traditional pen and paper, while 23% of students are working on their computer/iPad, 10% are working from a book or magazine, and the remaining 2% are working from their phone. (1)

Sources

- Gensler Research. (2014). Why do Students really go to the library? Retrieved From http://liblibraries.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/0004_0001_Modern-Library-Design.jpg
- Mathuews, Katy. Library Presentation. 16 Jan. 2018.

Materials



This research presented by Gensler coincides with what is happening at Alden Library at Ohio University. According to Katy Mathuews who is the Head of Collections Assessment and Access at Alden Library, students who go to Alden mainly go there to study individually. Since the majority of the furniture at the library is meant to be used for collaborative group work and most students want to study individually, seating arrangements aren't utilized as well as they should be. Students don't feel comfortable sitting right beside a stranger while studying. (2)

Mathuews also mentioned that 60% of the books in Alden do not get checked out. So, why should books take up that much space when people could take up that space? In order to have the books available and to preserve the knowledge of them, the books would be stored off-site. The other 40% that are often checked out, would stay at the library itself. Since the majority of the books are not checked out, people are accessing knowledge through their own devices. This also coincides with Gensler's research with how more students use pen, paper, and computers/iPads. (2)



2 Open Study Space

This rendering features the largest area of the library, open study space. This space is mostly dedicated collaborative studying with sets of lounge tables and chairs, media spaces with a viewing screen, and enclosed areas for groups. The open study space is divided up with shelves containing popular books.



1 Large Format Work Space

The Large Format Work Space is meant to serve the specific needs of fine arts students. Many of those needs include physically making or drawing something for their projects. All of the tables and chairs are on casters so that they can be easily moved according to needs. There are also drawing tables, light tables, and a sink available for use.

Concept Statement

The fine arts library of the future is a place to empower students to further develop studies, projects, and experiences at the university. It's a place to supply the specific demands for the fine arts students such as relevant books, computer software, and enough space to achieve work on small and large projects. The library itself is a flexible space that encourages students to use it as they need.



3 Reception Desk

Upon entering the fine arts floor of the Alden Library, the first thing you will see is the reception desk. At the desk, there is enough space for up to four people to be working at the desk during the busiest times. Here the receptionists will be able to answer any and all questions about about the fine art floor. The desk will also contain storage for the employee's personal belongings, storage for books carts, and storage for the other basic needs of a reception desk.



The best student-centered learning experience in America



OHIO
UNIVERSITY

A FINE ARTS LIBRARY OF THE FUTURE

CONCEPT STATEMENT

The intent of the design of the Fine Arts Library of the Future is to create an academic space where students can immerse themselves in research and creativity. To respond to the changing styles of teaching and learning, the library will be designed with private and group study areas outfitted with an array of technology and tools. The library acts as an extension of the classroom with a discursively designed Co-Art Lab where students can collaboratively create and explore a variety of aspects of art and design while cultivating creativity in the surrounding areas. The gallery space that extends throughout the entire library would circulate productivity and inspiration to all students wherever they are working.

BUBBLE DIAGRAM



COLLABORATION

According to the Journal of Learning Spaces, collaborative places of study, particularly the "book or quiet" should be a space that has plenty of light for working, as well as furniture that can easily be moved and reconfigured. Informational desks, the furniture should also be easily cleaned and not have any porous surface. Throughout this space should be objects of inspiration. For example access to a 3D printer, scanners, scanning boards, drawing tablets, and library owned computers that can be used for research and collaborative work. Along with that, books could also be placed in a collaborative space to provide additional assistance in using these resources. In a case study done in 2015, these collaborative spaces became extensions of the classroom. An advantage of adding these spaces in an academic library was the close proximity to other means of technology, collections, and library staff support in multiple traditional scenarios. While the case study showed a class of engineers, technology, and design students, the space could easily be used as a general workspace for students and their own or a space where occasional classes could be taught on a specific subject such as a new way to use Photoshop. (Lusk & Parrot, 2017)

CONNECTION

An article in Interiors sources went in depth about the need for connection in libraries. The article argues that libraries are bringing from the work area being more transparent in how they operate and their design. Libraries of today are more warm and welcoming than past libraries packed with too tall stacks too high to reach. This new approach makes libraries less intimidating. Learning environments that had patrons through this space are key for motivating the user to experience more than just what they came for. The main reason for designing these open spaces is to help them, and for what they need to work in. Comfortable seating areas, with flexible spaces that serve more than one function are crucial to new library design as technology and learning experiences are changing rapidly. (Hofmann, 2018)

"We're designing libraries so people have a better understanding that the library appeals to everyone."

SWATCH RENDERED PLAN

ENGAGEMENT

The biggest phase of the design is the learning commons. The Project Information Library journal describes learning commons as "service hubs for learning, research, engagement, and collaboration within the library." (Hend, 2016). These are primary spots in the library where students move furniture to fit their needs for collaboration. In an assignment, where students can choose to work alone in a quiet ambient environment, or in a group. The learning commons have evolved to incorporate information consumption and knowledge creation. Learning spaces also have easy access to research both from a student, teacher, or librarian, when needed. (Hend, 2016). An array of all the learning commons is a digital access center where students can access computers, printers, and other software in and to research. The creation of all of these resources creates an epicenter for learning and inspiration. In an interview, one librarian said "The library needs to be a part of the student's journey during the day" (Hend, 2016). Undiscovered spots allow for group engagement for public.

MATERIAL SWITCHES



MATERIAL DESCRIPTIONS
 1. Densified bamboo floor
 2. Dark wood floor
 3. Light wood floor
 4. Dark wood floor
 5. Dark wood floor

Public - Together

Public - Together spaces such as the study area and the Co-Art Lab offer both formal and informal study and work spaces. These spaces are designed to be flexible and adaptable to various needs and uses. They provide a space for students to collaborate and learn together.

Private - Together

Private - Together spaces are designed for students who prefer a more quiet and focused environment. These spaces are equipped with comfortable seating and good lighting to support individual study and work.

Public - Alone

Public - Alone spaces are designed for students who prefer a quiet and focused environment. These spaces are equipped with comfortable seating and good lighting to support individual study and work.

Private - Alone

Private - Alone spaces are designed for students who prefer a quiet and focused environment. These spaces are equipped with comfortable seating and good lighting to support individual study and work.

COLLABORATIVE ART LAB

The Collaborative Art Lab is a space designed for students to work together on art projects. It is equipped with large tables, comfortable seating, and good lighting. The space is designed to be flexible and adaptable to various needs and uses. It provides a space for students to collaborate and learn together.

CO-ART LAB LEARNING



FURNITURE DETAILS



INFORMATION DESK ELEVATION



INFORMATION



INFORMATION



INFORMATION



INFORMATION



INFORMATION DESK ELEVATION



INFORMATION



INFORMATION



INFORMATION



INFORMATION



The best student-centered learning experience in America



OHIO UNIVERSITY

EXPANDING EDUCATION

SAM SHAW

Libraries Re-defined

Libraries have historically been recognized to be preservers of knowledge, book heavy, quiet and sometimes inaccessible to all the public. Often when someone is asked, "what's the first thing you think of when you hear the word library?" they say "books." Traditionally libraries were exclusively book text and were treated very well as this was the main way of learning new information. In the last 30 years we have seen a need for other resources than just books as new technologies and opportunities are available. This includes computers, electronic books, downloading scholarly articles and creative technologies such as 3D printers and scanners. Over time the definition of what a library is has changed drastically due to the communities needs and varying learning personalities that come to learn in the space. Libraries have expanded to become very community based serving as a free resource to all. With the commitment that the library serves not only a few individuals successfully but caters to many different learners, private/public space, individual/group and demographics.

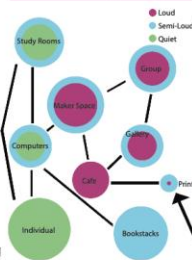
Materials



Concept

The library of the future is an environment where students are exposed to new technologies, submerged in vibrant spaces, and able to passionately design. Each student can find what they educationally need through spaces designed for individual, collaborative and technology based focuses. Using flexible and mobile furniture, colorful textiles, appropriate sound zones and stimulating environments, this will create a space where all students can thrive.

Sound Zoning Diagram



Furniture Selections



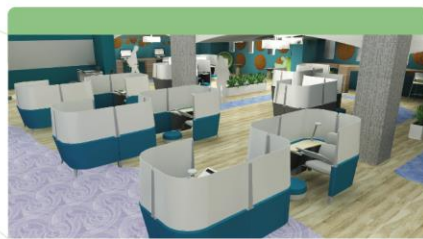
Entrance/Cafe/Group



Maker Space



Study Rooms/Individual Space



Individual Space/Computers

CONNECT

Allowing students the opportunities to collaborate in environments that enhance their abilities to learn with one another. Furniture is a key element to helping make these experiences successful. This design includes a variety of re-configurable furniture such as Campfire Lounge Seating by SteelCase, Turnstone educational tables/chairs and whiteboard special dividers that allow for students to design their own space for the time being and feel comfortable to focus as best they can.

EDUCATE

The Library has always been a place of knowledge and stimulation throughout their existence. Redefining how everyone learns and understanding new technologies that allow us different accesses is a very important step to the success of individuals who come to learn, focus or discover new information. In this Design, there is a clear communication of the need for a change in the definition of this space. Books are no longer the primary source of information but they still have a very important feel and aesthetic to the Library. There are 40 book stacks separated into 5 groupings that have been turned into compact shelving. This reduces space

CREATE

A newer concept as to what a library can do for it's community is creation and enhancing imagination through space. Included in this design is a fully equipped maker space that includes a collaborative area and 2 private studios. It includes technologies such as 3D printers, 3D scanners and light tables accessible to all who would like to use them. This is a very collaborative based area, encourages people to learn and grow from one another and encourages conversation about the technologies/critiques of the arts. All of the Turnstone tables/chairs are movable to be configured into individual or group environments so people can really work at their best.

FOCUS

Libraries have traditionally been quiet spaces to allow for focus and concentration for the individual. Through the transformation we understand that it is important for areas of collaboration and noisiness as well. With this comes the challenge of noise control and areas where you can successfully concentrate. A great furniture tool used in this design would be the Brody System which puts the individual in their own environment by the usage of partial walling built into it. This gives the user a protected feeling and also helps control any noises going on in the area. Incorporated as well are Knoll Acoustic Tiling sets that drastically absorb noise that could be potentially distracting to a user of the library. Another focus aspect integrated into this design are the three larger conference rooms, three 1-2 person rooms and a larger study room. These rooms are a popular feature especially approaching finals week for students at a university and meetings for staff of a school. Another problem that statically libraries have faced is not being equipped with enough outlets for charging devices that are

APPLY

This design is centered around the importance of education and beyond. It is facteted with tools that allow for the upmost use of the space to learn and create individually and collaboratively. The vision is to help communities grow now, but also using the experiences one's gained to be used in the future and enhance lives.

brought in. Every piece of furniture aside from movable tables have built in outlets and pop-up stations are available heavily around furnished areas to accommodate for these devices.

The best student-centered learning experience in America



Primary Elements

- Service
- Resources
- Space



Makerspaces

18 of 20 students included a "makerspace"
meet > make > critique

- size varied
- centralized versus decentralized
- collaborative, social

Takeaways

- Students may still desire interaction with library staff
- Multi-functional space

Contact Information

Daniel J. Harper, M.I.D., Ph.D.

harperd1@ohio.edu

740-566-6417

Katy Mathuews, M.L.I.S, Ph.D.

mathuews@ohio.edu

740-593-2139