Student Study Areas

Maag Library

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY
Agenda

• What we (still) have
• What students want and need
• Why it is important
• What we have done
• What we would like to do next!
Academic Libraries

- Designed for large print collections
- Transitioning to more digital resources
- Weeding old, unused materials
- How to best use resulting space

Empty shelves on Maag’s 6th floor after weeding serials
• Studies show a correlation between library use and academic success.
• Space needs rethought to enhance learning process.
Maag Library is open the most hours on campus and is often the only place open for students to study or use printers.
Maag Library was constructed in 1976. The round study tables & padded chairs originally purchased when the library was built...

Photo from 1976 Dedication Program, YSU Archives
...are still the primary tables used on all floors of the library.  
They are now 42 years old!
The green chairs used throughout the building and the individual study carrells were also purchased in 1976.

Photos from 1976 Dedication Program, YSU Archives
They are also still in use throughout the library today.
In 2016, a **Library Strategic Planning Committee** was formed by the Provost.

**Committee Recommendations:**

1. Create an Information Hub on the Main Floor
2. Expand Information Literacy
3. Improve Technology
4. Update Collection and Acquisitions Process
5. **Enhance Physical Space**
6. Fill Staff Vacancies
5. Enhance Physical Space

- Provide more group spaces and study rooms with equipment
- Provide electrical outlets and improved WiFi
- Add chairs, tables, and desks
- Update the overall décor
- Improve the HVAC system
- Evaluate hours of operation
Use of Maag Library building

- **Work/Study in group**: 17% Daily/Weekly, 28% Monthly, 55% Never
- **Work/Study individually**: 36% Daily/Weekly, 29% Monthly, 35% Never
- **Access databases on library computers**: 18% Daily/Weekly, 32% Monthly, 50% Never
- **Borrow materials**: 19% Daily/Weekly, 33% Monthly, 48% Never
- **Socialize/cafés**: 20% Daily/Weekly, 27% Monthly, 53% Never

*Number of survey responses*
Do you feel that Maag Library has contributed to your success?
How could Maag Library better serve your needs?

- Cafe: 15
- CRC: 1
- Easier Access: 22
- Hours: 23
- Increase Resources: 51
- More Assistance/Marketing: 37
- Satisfied: 57
- Update Facilities: 72
- Writing Center: 2
- Uncategorized: 42
Overall, the students are happy with Maag Library, but “Updating Facilities” was #1 as to how the Library could better serve their needs.

One of the most interesting parts of the survey were the comments. This was where we could really see what students were thinking.
Maag Library Survey results are similar to evidence found in a Literature Review of the research relating to library study spaces and college student success.
A 2016 report from the Association of College & Research Libraries, *Documented Library Contributions to Student Learning and Success: Building Evidence with Team-Based Assessment in Action Campus Projects* focuses on dozens of projects conducted as part of the program *Assessment in Action: Academic Libraries and Student Success (AiA).*
The report identifies strong evidence of the positive contributions of academic libraries to student learning and success in 4 key areas:

1. Students benefit from library instruction in their initial coursework.

2. **Library use increases student success.**

3. Collaborative academic programs and services involving the library enhance student learning.

4. Information literacy instruction strengthens general education outcomes.
Library use increases student success.

“Students who use the library in some way (e.g., circulation, library instruction session attendance, online databases access, study room use, interlibrary loan) achieve higher levels of academic success (e.g., GPA, course grades, retention) than students who do not use the library.”
AiA assessment results show evidence for positive connections between library services and resources and student learning and success:

- Student retention improves with library instructional services.
- Library research consultation services boost student learning.
- Library instruction adds value to a student’s long-term academic experience.
- The library promotes academic rapport and student engagement.
- Use of library space relates positively to student learning and success.
AiA Assessment Project at Illinois Institute of Technology

- Focus was the impact of library use on student success and persistence for 644 library users.
- These library users had a higher GPA than students who did not have the same level of library usage.
- Average GPA of the 644 users was 3.29, compared to a 3.09 average for those with less library use.
• Considered different library factors (e.g., collections, space, instruction, reference, etc.) and connections to student learning and success.

• Outlets are IMPORTANT!

• Students are likely to use the library as a study space their first year and as a resource in later years.

• Students are frequently pleased with library services, but they don’t always talk about it.

• The library “is a safe haven, not just a quiet study space, but a place to escape campus pressures.”
“Students view the library as a place, much more than as a collection of services that help them succeed. Therefore, the physical comforts and availability of such things as outlets is crucial to their view of how well the library is meeting their needs.”

“The library building gives a necessary respite from conflicting interests. They are easily frustrated therefore by the library’s physical failings (lack of outlets being primary, but also lack of comfortable seating or malfunctioning printers, or air conditioning failures and the like).”
Mann Library (Cornell) Assessment Results

• The library inspires students to study; studying in the library makes students feel like they are part of something bigger.

• Study spaces in other academic buildings will supplement, but not replace, the library as students’ preferred studying destination.

• Technology – both low (whiteboards & power outlets) and high – is necessary.

• Students desire a variety of furniture types: mobile and fixed, adjustable, and comfortable in varying heights, shapes, and colors.

• Students need a variety of spaces with defined noise levels.

• Bring nature and natural light inside as much as possible.
“Ambience was critical for students ... Students liked a modern, new, open, clean aesthetic with a ‘library’ feel that encouraged productivity.”

“The main characteristics needed for furniture were variety, comfort, adjustability, and mobility. Students wanted a variety of furniture styles and heights for different purposes.”
Akron Libraries’ 2016-17 strategic plan includes 5 strategic directions: (1) academic engagement, (2) outreach and collaboration, (3) facilities and spaces, (4) access and discovery, and (5) professional development.

Facilities and spaces, is defined thusly:

“Provide an inclusive, technology-infused environment with flexible places that are responsive to the needs of all users and that nurture engaged learning behaviors ... For many users, their experience centers on interaction with the physical spaces of the Libraries. Our users understand and embrace the nature and value of library space, and they consider access to physical space one of the Libraries’ core services. Access should, therefore, be transparent, be matched to their needs, and be barrier free. A ‘space as service’ mentality allows us to impact directly the daily lives of our users.”
What We’ve Done!

At Maag Library we have completed a number of projects since the Library Strategic Planning Report to improve services and provide more study space for students.

- Lobby remodel
- Reference room weeding project
- Relocation of 4th floor computer lab to main floor
- 6th floor serials weeding project
- Increased Textbook Reserves
- Added 50 new Gale databases
Summer 2017 the lobby was painted and new furniture and carpet squares were purchased from Ohio Desk.
The updated space is a hit with our students!
Fall 2016 & Spring 2017 was spent weeding the reference book collection. Outdated & rarely used items were recycled or transferred to the general collection. 6 stacks of shelves were removed to create more study space for students.

These spaces were previously filled with shelving.
Relocation of Computer Lab

The reference weeding led to relocating the 4th floor computer lab to the Reference Room on the main floor of the Library. This is more convenient for students and puts them closer to research help!
There is a documented increase in the number of students coming into the reference room to print and study since the change. Floor counts are done at the same times each day.

<table>
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<th>REFERENCE COUNTS</th>
<th>FALL SEMESTER</th>
<th>SPRING SEMESTER</th>
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<tr>
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<td>2016</td>
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<td>7 PM AVERAGES</td>
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Highest counts of patrons in the Reference Room at times listed above:

- Fall 2016: **17**
- Fall 2017: **45**
- Spring 2017: **12**
- Spring 2018: **30**
What is Next?

Increase STUDY SPACES for Students!

STEP 1: Assess & Weed Journals Collection 6th Floor

8,000 Volumes Discarded over 1 year *(available EJC & JSTOR)*

12 TONS of Paper Recycled
STEP 2: Remove Empty Shelving \((3,420 \text{ linear feet})\)

May 2018

STEP 3: Create Study Spaces \((\text{Flexible, Mobile, Comfortable})\)

Example: Gannon University Library, Erie, PA

Summer 2018
FURNITURE PROPOSAL

6th Floor: $77,580.82 (Ohio Desk 4/10/18)
FURNITURE PROPOSAL

6th Floor: $77,580.82 (Ohio Desk 4/10/18)
FURNITURE PROPOSAL

Other Floors (356 CHAIRS): $39,560.75 (Ohio Desk 4/10/18)

Original Chairs 1976
MULTIMEDIA CENTER, 3rd Floor

• Open up to increase visibility & accessibility
• Increase GROUP study spaces
  - “FLEX” spaces (work & study)
  - One-Button Studio Room (approx. $9,000)
PROPOSAL SUMMARY

• 6th Floor QUIET Study Area (NEW Furniture): $77,580.82
• Study Areas on Other Floors (NEW Chairs): $39,560.75
  TOTAL: $117,141.57

Investment Benefits for Students & YSU

✓ Increased studying
✓ Higher levels of academic success
✓ Higher GPAs
✓ Increased Retention
YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

and proud.