From Basement to Garden Level - a Technology-Driven User Space Renovation

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UBC Quick Facts

UBC has two main campuses and between them both there are:
• >54,000 students
• 18 Faculties
• 14 Schools
• 3 Colleges
• >3600 Faculty
• >9700 Staff

Aerial view of the UBC Vancouver (Point Grey) campus - photo by Russ Heinl
UBC library has 21 branches and divisions and serves a large and diverse academic and research community.

Woodward Library is one of four libraries comprising the “Life Sciences Libraries” (LSL).
Woodward Library extension, 1970
Woodward Library and Instructional Resource Centre, main entrance
Library Processing Centre

Source: UBC
The project was parsed out into 5 segments:

1. relocating LSIT staff
2. relocating TS staff
3. relocation of collections in the building
4. new student learning space in Woodward Library
5. storage of collections moved
Several other university units were utilized to assist in the project.

- Facilities and Campus Planning
- Project Services
- Director, Finance and Facilities (Project Manager)

External project members include:
- architect and designer were hired
Early Planning

LPC

- LSIT
- TS
- Collection

IKBLC
Woodward
Storage
Before
Before
Needs Assessment
Purpose

A focused needs assessment by the Lower Level Planning Group looked at students’ preference for:

• mix of quiet group study
• presentations practice space
• level of workstations
• number of loaner laptops
• furniture arrangements/ types
Method

The needs assessment took the form of:
• Post It notes with an invitation to comment
• survey
• Libqual data
• discussion at student meetings
• observation in the library and at other student centres
Survey

The quantifiable feedback came from the survey which consisted of:

• 2 demographic related questions
• 11 lickert scale questions
• 2 open ended questions
Survey

- created in Vovici
- made available online and in print.
- advertised digitally and in print
- distributed at the Science Undergraduate Society and SCI Team meetings
Spaces for groups of 3 or more students are important to me.

- Strongly disagree: 2
- Disagree: 3
- Neither agree nor disagree: 7
- Agree: 16
- Strongly agree: 14

- 38.1% Strongly disagree
- 33.3% Disagree
- 16.7% Neither agree nor disagree
- 4.8% Agree
- 7.1% Strongly agree
Spaces where I can prepare for a presentation are important to me.

- Strongly disagree: 4
- Disagree: 5
- Neither agree nor disagree: 3
- Agree: 15
- Strongly agree: 5

- Strongly disagree: 9.5%
- Disagree: 11.9%
- Agree: 31.0%
- Strongly agree: 35.7%
Individual quiet study spaces are important to me.

- Strongly disagree: 2
- Disagree: 4
- Neither agree nor disagree: 5
- Agree: 8
- Strongly agree: 23
Study carrels are important to me.

- Strongly disagree: 2
- Disagree: 7
- Neither agree nor disagree: 4
- Agree: 9
- Strongly agree: 10

- 33.3 %
- 16.7 %
- 4.8 %
- 23.8 %
- 21.4 %
Comfortable, lounge type seating is important to me.
Being able to rearrange the furniture is important to me.

- Strongly disagree: 3
- Disagree: 6
- Neither agree nor disagree: 5
- Agree: 12
- Strongly agree: 6
Computer workstations provided by the library are important to me.

- Strongly disagree: 1
- Disagree: 5
- Neither agree nor disagree: 4
- Agree: 10
- Strongly agree: 22

- 62.4% Agree
- 23.8% Neither agree nor disagree
- 11.9% Disagree
- 9.5% Strongly disagree
- 2.4% Strongly disagree
Laptops provided by the library are important to me.

- Strongly disagree: 6
- Disagree: 11
- Neither agree nor disagree: 8
- Agree: 9
- Strongly agree: 7

- 22.0%
- 17.1%
- 14.6%
- 19.5%
- 26.8%
Places to plug in my laptop are important to me.
24/7 access to the library building is important to me.

- Strongly disagree: 2
- Disagree: 1
- Neither agree nor disagree: 9
- Agree: 10
- Strongly agree: 20

- Strongly disagree: 4.8%
- Disagree: 2.4%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 21.4%
- Agree: 23.8%
- Strongly agree: 47.6%
Qualitative data

- Open ended questions in survey
- PostIt notes
- Discussion in student groups
Comments summarised in this wordle
Process

Woodward Library representatives worked very closely with the Architect, Designer and UBC Project Manager to design the space to accommodate:

• some bookable group space
• computers
• casual comfortable space
• quiet space
Process

One of the main pieces of the project was to significantly enlarge the windows to brighten the space allowing more light. The lower level working group discussed the colour schemes, lighting, furniture, electrical outlets, etc., striving for a place that was inviting, had good electrically outlet capacity for plugging in laptops and other devices. The space is fully wireless but we increased the OPACS in the space as well since not all students bring their own computers to campus.
The Outcome
Quiet Study
Quiet Study
Quiet Study
Group Study
Computers
Spacious and light
Comfortable seating
Comfortable seating
Computer lab space
Food

Food is allowed and we have vending machines in the space. We tried to interest campus food services in our renovation but nothing came of that.
How did we do?
Post-renovation survey

What 3 words would you use to describe the new space?
Questions?