Music Library Space Assessment, Winter 2019

Purpose

The Libraries space assessment program is built upon a scalable, sustainable, mixed-methods approach that enables Libraries staff to respond to user needs both in specific libraries and holistically across our system. One of the Libraries strategic goals is to "Develop and advocate for new and evolving library spaces that address student enrollment growth and changes in scholarship and learning." Libraries space assessment projects are designed to maximize and improve the user spaces we currently have and also provide robust data to inform future decision-making and potential large-scale changes. The Music Library Space Assessment project was a part of this cycle in Winter 2019.

Key Resources

- Music space assessment Tableau dashboard
- See also: In Library Use Survey data dashboard and comments dashboard; 2016 hours data and 2018 branch hours dashboard

Methods

- Conducted 24 space counts from January-March 2019. Space counts provide an understanding of typical occupancy of the types of zones, furniture, and equipment used.
  - 5 of these occurred on weekends, and 19 on weekdays.
- Conducted five 1-hr qualitative observations
- Posted weekly whiteboard prompts for additional user feedback
- Conducted data review including hours data, gate count, circulation data, reference & instruction statistics, 2016 Triennial Survey Results and 2014 and 2018 In Library Use Survey results.
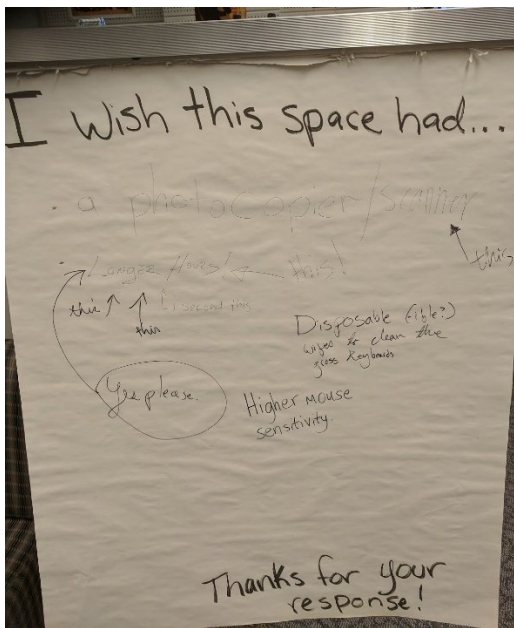
Results

- Based on counts, observations, and survey data, the Music Library is often used for individual study. About 75% of use was individual study in both space counts and observations. This corroborates findings in the 2018

Library Use Survey, where 70% of users reported working individually. Group study represented about 25% of the overall use, which largely occurs in the upstairs library (at the 6- and 8-person tables).

- While the use between PC computers (10 unique uses during counts) and Mac carrels (13 uses) was not substantially different, the relative number of machines means that average Mac use was at 18% of capacity while average PC use was at only 4% of capacity.

Actions & Improvements

- Results from this project helped guide decisions during a major restructuring of staff and student space in Spring 2019.
- A follow up project for the fine arts libraries was intended to run in Spring 2020 but was postponed due to COVID-19.

Images above show consensus among users (left) and placement for the user feedback station in the Music Listening Center.