Music Space Survey

Background
This report is based on the outcome of a music library study space survey conducted in April 2023. This survey involved both paper survey forms left around the music library, as well as a virtual survey accessed via QR code.

The total number of participants was 78. Results below are shown with users who reported never visiting the music library removed (n=8)

General Responses

How regularly do you study in the Music Library?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Online</th>
<th>In-person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Almost every day</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A few times a week</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A few times a month</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A few times a semester</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which types of activities do you use the Music Library study space for?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Online</th>
<th>In-person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Getting work done by yourself</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessing books, CDs, or other resources available in...</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using tools or technology available in the Music...</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relaxing and passing time while on campus</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doing work while spending time with a group</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaborating with a group on projects</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t use the music library study space</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When the percentage of responses is higher than the percentage of library seating capacity, this indicates that the proportional use of this study space in survey respondents was higher than the availability of seats in this space, which could indicate a greater general preference for this type of study space.

This graph is sorted in order of decreasing ratio of percentage of responses to percentage of library seating capacity, meaning that study space types listed further to the left may be more in-demand than study space types listed further to the right.

**Discussions around other areas used**

In general themes around why space users would choose other spaces were pretty consistent regardless of which space they used. Users indicate that:

- They will sit in a different part of the library if their preferred area is full
- They will choose between one of the quiet areas (the seats by the window, the carrels, or the back room) if they need to focus / concentrate, but will choose a more social area (the tables in
the main study area, the banquette seating) if they want to work with a group or interact with / be around people.
- They will choose the comfortable seating areas (couches or armchairs) when they want to relax / don’t need to focus
- They will use the computer stations when they need to print something.

Listed areas for improvement

The majority of respondents provided positive feedback. Among the many responses of there being nothing that needs improvement, we received the following specific testimonials:

- “It’s really well laid out!”
- “Has a great variety and it compliments different study style[s] for different people and groups”
- “I really like the new set up of the library”
- “Y’all slay 10/10”

There was very little consistency between the types of improvements requested, but the following suggestions were all made by more than one user:

- More “tucked away” study spaces among the stacks
- Bigger study tables (to fit more belongings)
- Smaller study tables (because students don’t want to share tables)
- More comfortable chairs
- Better signage for back study room, as students didn’t realize it existed
- More couches
- More space for music library collections (less requesting from storage)

Study area specific responses

New study carrels in main study area (n=7)

Why they chose this study area:

- To focus and avoid distraction
- To study alone

Seats by the window (n=15)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length of Visit - Seats by the Window</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than an hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Around 1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Around 2 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Around 3 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 3 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of respondents: 15

Online
Compared with all respondents, moderate-frequency users seem more likely to use the window study spaces than very infrequent or very frequent users. Users of this space also tended not to stay for short times as frequently as in other areas. Users didn’t report doing collaborative work by the windows.

Why they chose this seating area:

- Near the window
- Isolated / quiet / distraction-free
- Positive comments on furniture quality
  - “cute cubicle”
  - “good chair”
  - “large and personal desk space”

Back room

Why they chose this area:

- Quiet and isolated, ideal for concentration
- Other mentions:
  - “only warm place in Talbot”
  - Like being able to control the light level
Tables in main study area (n=15)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than an hour</td>
<td>Online</td>
</tr>
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<td>Around 1 hour</td>
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<td>Online</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Online</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Short visits seem more common in this area.

**Why they chose this seating area:**
- “Seeing other people study helps me focus” / social atmosphere
- “I love the big tables”
- Close to the entrance / close to the PCs & printers
- “Doesn’t feel closed off” / well-lit

Banquette / Café Seating (n=5)

**Why they chose this seating area:**
- Most comfortable spot
- A bit more private than the main study area
- Good for group work
- “Everyone loves booth seating”

Armchairs in main study area (n=5)

Most of the users who use this space mention staying for less than an hour.

**Why they chose this seating area:**
- Comfortable chairs with tables
- Not crowded
- Access to printer

Computer stations (n=3)

**Why they chose this seating area:**
- To print something
- Other mentions:
  - Enjoy the bar seating
  - Enjoy the sound of the keyboards