Ask, Analyze, Assess: Insights into New Library Spaces at Ringling College of Art + Design

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Ringling College Library Study (2011)

- Embody the aesthetic values of the College, including natural light, quality of materials, and clarity of organization.
- Enable each student to study in the social and physical setting that meets the individual’s needs.
- Focus on the future and accommodate learning needs as they change and evolve; including through design flexible, adaptable, and expandable spaces.

Concept Art: Shepley Bulfinch
Post-occupancy Evaluation (POE)

- Formal assessment of original building goals/needs
- Study of a building in use from the user’s perspective
- May provide justification for adjustments or modifications
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Goldstein Library Survey Results

- **121 total respondents** with all college major and academic departments represented
- Majority of respondents were students, followed by faculty and staff
- Participants answered questions relating to library visits, experiences, design, technology, likes, and dislikes
- Questions were mostly multiple choice with a small number of open answer inquiries

![Bar chart showing the distribution of respondents:]

- **Student**: Over 60%
- **Faculty**: About 20%
- **Staff**: About 10%
- **Alumni**: Very low
- **Trustee**: Very low
- **RCLA Member**: Very low
- **Student from another college**: Very low
- **Faculty from another college**: Very low
- **Other (please specify)**: Very low
“The windows let in light so I don’t feel like I’m in a tomb like in the CA labs.”
“Come on, it’s gorgeous. A forward-thinking space for a forward-thinking student body.”
“It’s clean and appealing and stylish. Makes me want to make art.”
“It’s nice.”
“The exercise I get when taking the stairs really makes me feel alive.”
“It doesn’t feel like a library. It feels happy.”
Online Outreach

- **Social media posts** through Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram related to library resources and misconceptions.
- **Updated LibGuides and FAQ’s** to address misinformation reflected in survey results.
- Creation of **online guides for resources and library services** that respondents found difficult to navigate or use.
In-Library Outreach

- Updated **take-away materials** for library visitors such as maps and how-to guides.
- Revamped library **signage and wayfinding materials** for easier navigation of the library collections.
- **Communicating with library student workers and staff** regarding library misconceptions and opportunities to correct them when helping library patrons.
Campus Outreach

- **Special library events** such as Pop-Up Libraries specifically highlighting areas of the library collections respondents thought we didn’t have.

- **Visits to faculty department meetings** to relay and discuss available library services and resources.

- **Discussions with the Faculty Library Advisory Committee and campus departments** addressing survey concerns and misconceptions.