



4-5-2018

What our students want in and from their library

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Recommended Citation

Wells, V., Imhof, R., & Johnston, D. (2018). What our students want in and from their library. Paper presented at Pacific's Second Annual Assessment Conference in Stockton, CA.

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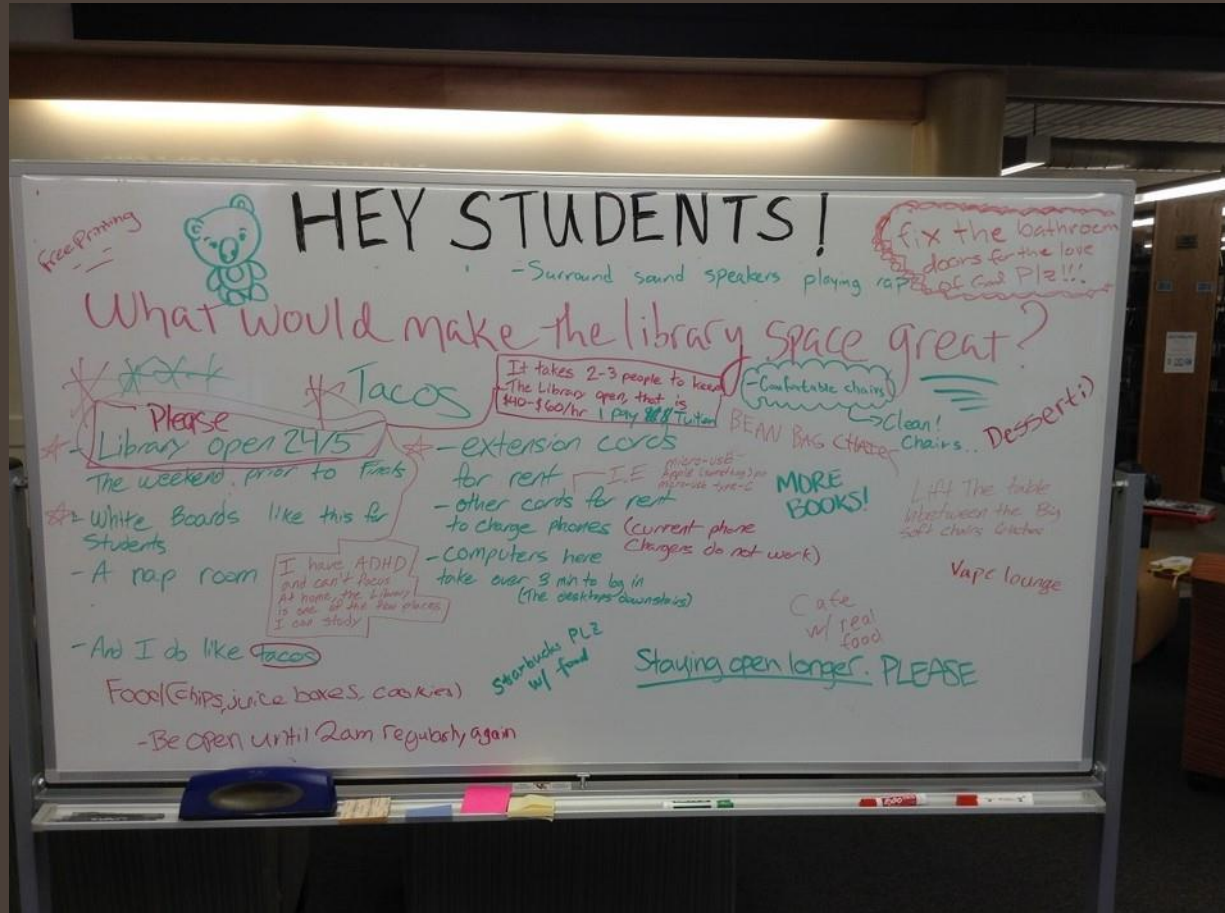
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What our students want in and from their library

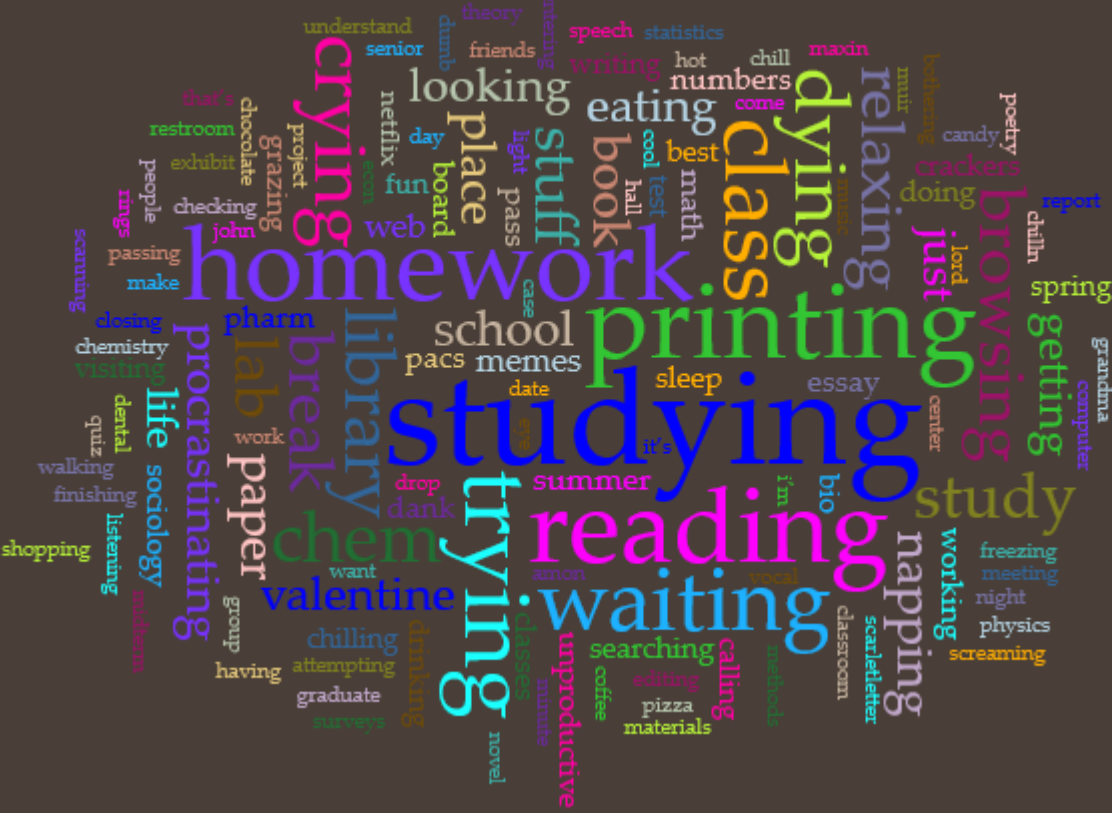
(Besides free tuition and tacos)

Veronica Wells, Robin Imhof, and Debbie Johnston, University Libraries

A series of whiteboard questions were asked to elicit responses from students about their preferred learning environments in the library



“What are you doing in the library today?”



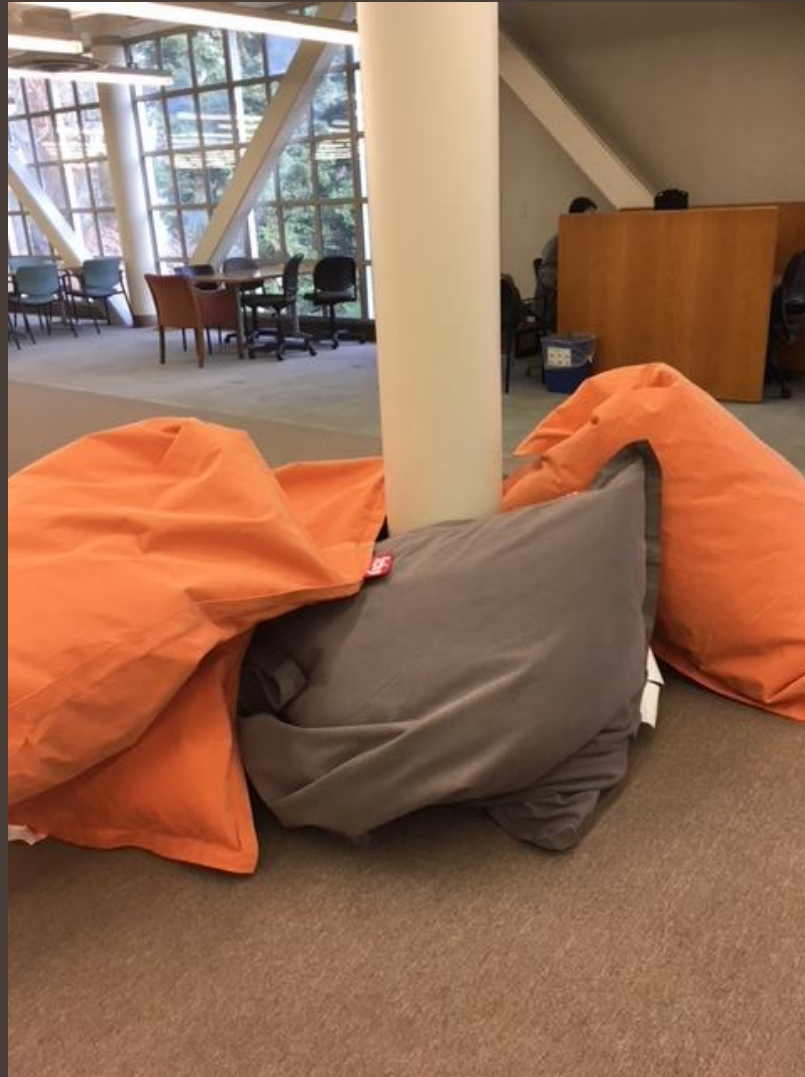
Common themes:

- FOOD!
- Printing access
- 24/7 access
- More whiteboards
- Comfortable/better chairs
- More cubicles/desks
- Bean bag chairs (several mentions)
- Proximity to windows/natural light
- Technology: extension cords/chargers/faster desktops/support
- More group study rooms (and truly sound-proof)
- De-stress spaces
- More books
- Filtered water dispenser
- Quiet spaces more often mentioned than active spaces

Demonstrating
responsiveness:
additional
whiteboards
were ordered
ASAP



10 “Fat Boy”
bean bags
were quickly
disbursed
throughout
the library



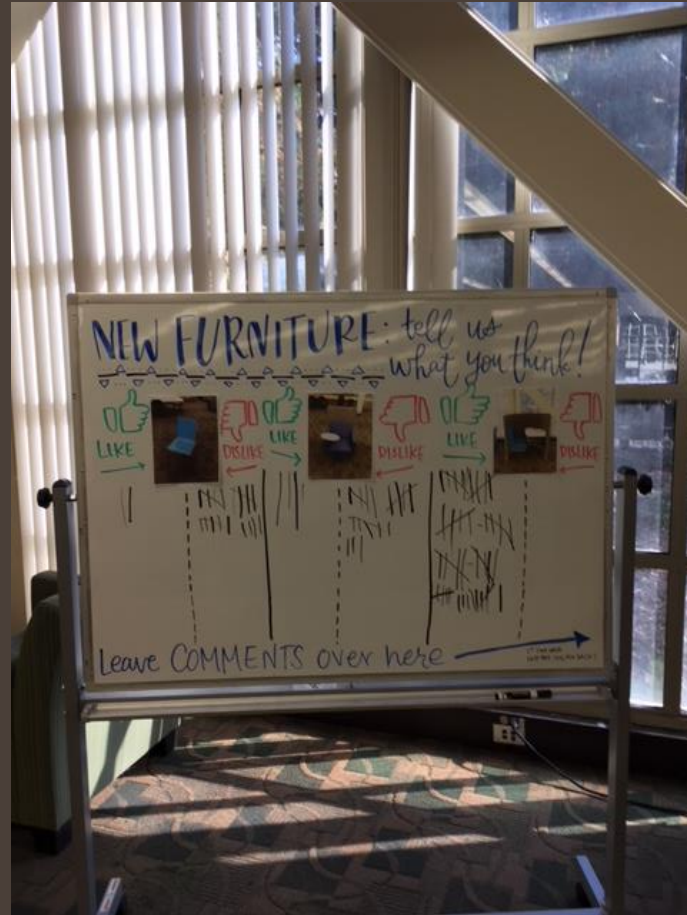
Many ended up in the darnedest places!



But what
about furniture
beyond
beanbags?



And students
did indeed tell
us what they
thought of the
sample
furniture ...



Sample
comments:

Liked the ampleness & comfort
but too heavy to move easily



One user said plastic chairs looked
like "kids' furniture" also doesn't
accommodate a variety of body types



The winner by
an
overwhelming
margin (133
“likes”)!



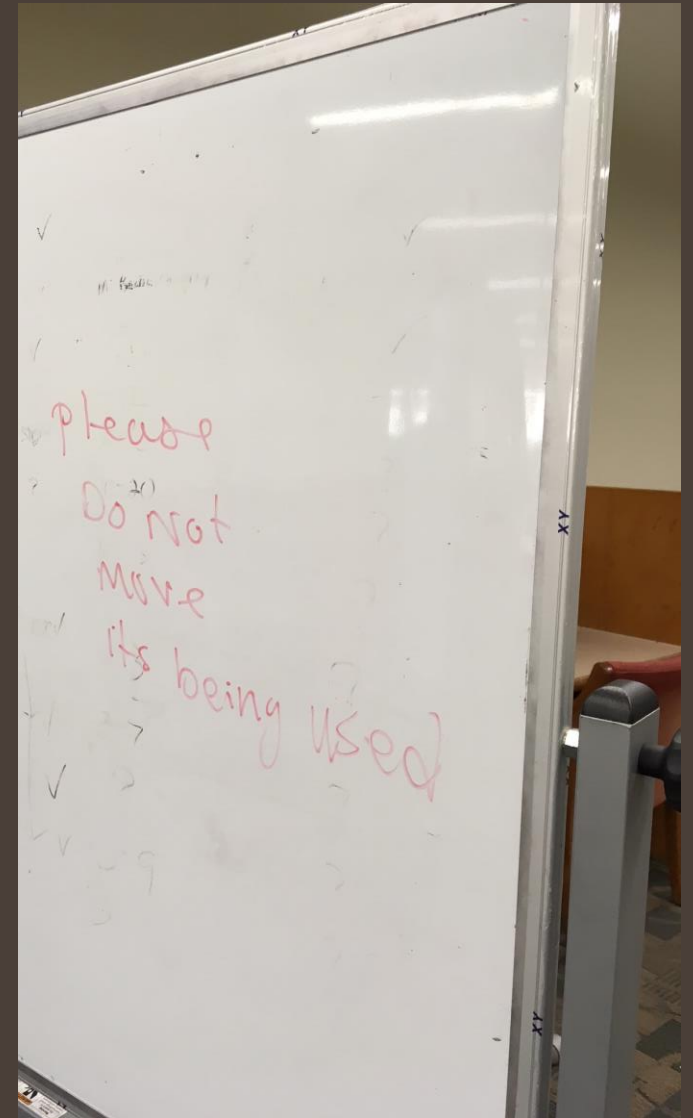
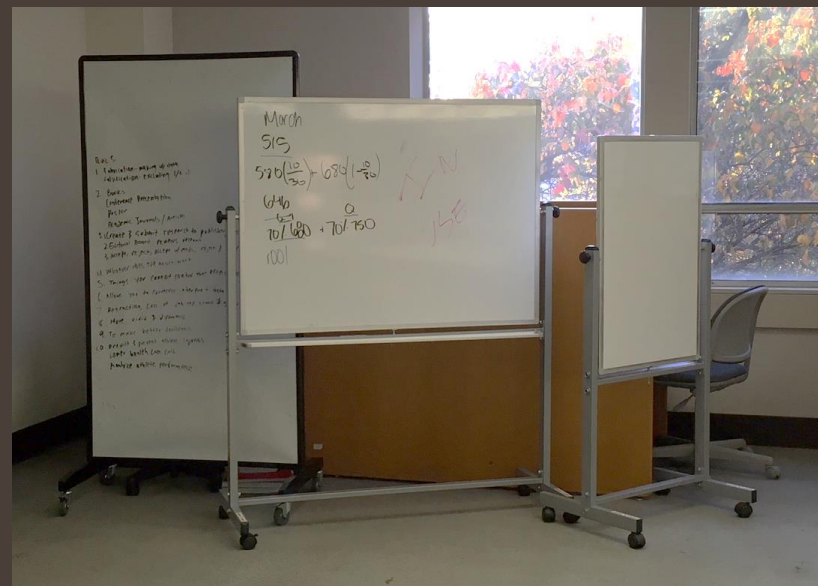
Summing up
the appeal of
the Agati
"pod":

Half-circle nook
Study thing helps
me drown out outside
distractions & is comfy
-me 😊

Data driven outcomes: 12 new pods were purchased and placed on the 2nd floor of the library in the designated “quiet area.”



Whiteboards used as privacy screens



Lounge chairs
used at tables



Furniture travels!



Before



After

More furniture travels!



Before



After

More furniture
moves –
privacy please!



Great students
deserve a
great library...

Thank you!

