Putting the “Quiet” in Quiet Study Space

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• Founded in 1823
• Largest pharmacy school in the world
• Now with ~4,000 students in over 30 degree programs
• Three campuses plus online programs
New Building, New Library
Connection between buildings
Entrance to Library
Library Floor Plan
Reference Desk
Reference Desk – the reality
Reference Desk – new location
View from the Circulation Desk
Computer Area - 1
Computer Area - 2
General Study Area - 1
General Study Area - 2
Problems

• Poorly Designed Library
  – Traffic patterns
  – No separation of library functions – everything and everyone is on top of each other
  – No nooks and crannies
Problems - continued

• Too little study space – Too many students
• No place for students to go
  – No student center
  – Mostly a commuter school
• No library culture
Trying to make a quiet Library
(good intentions – bad outcomes)
Signage

Quiet
Please
PLEASE
TURN OFF
CELLULAR
PHONES

Please help keep our library clean!
NO food or beverages
other than water in a capped
container are allowed.
Thank you for your cooperation!

Please leave journals on the
carts or tables – do not reshelve.

(We keep track of the journals as we reshelve them so
that we know which journals are actually being used – if
you put your journals back on the shelf yourself, we
won't know that anyone is using them and may cancel
the title! Also, this way we can make sure journals go
back in the right places.)

Avoid overdue fines!
Return reserve materials within
3 HOURS
Trying to make a quiet Library (good intentions – bad outcomes)

• Signage
• Email Students
• Article in Student Newspaper
• Talk to Student Gov’t Association
• Library Staff On Patrol!!
Redesigning a space-challenged library

- Analyzing the situation
  - Poorly located reference desk
  - Need for additional computers
  - Create a quiet study room
How to create a quiet study room in a library without rooms

- Reduce print collections to create more concentrated study space

- Move “noisy” activities to one side of the library
  - Reference collection, copiers, printers

- Enclose area to create a new physical and psychological space
Quiet Study Area

Quiet Study area Please keep noise to a minimum and take any conversations outside.

Thank You
“Finished” Product

• Quiet Study Area
  – mix of study carrels, tables and soft seating
  – Leisure Reading Collection
  – Small Book Collection
  – Group Study Rooms
  – One Ultra-Quiet Study Room

• GLASS WALL AND DOOR
Success?

• Quiet Study Area that is actually quiet!

• Other Benefits
  – Better located reference desk
  – Doubled public computers