Using a Participatory Design Workshop to Renovate a Library Teaching Space

Laura Farwell Blake, Head, Services for Academic Programs, Harvard College Library
Reed Lowrie, Interim Reference Manager, Widener, Lamont, Cabot and Tozzer Libraries, Harvard College Library
The Larsen Room circa 2010
What we wanted

- Room for both student use and library instruction space
- Especially group study space for students
- Especially a place to challenge teachers to think creatively about pedagogy
What we did

- Participatory Design Process with Students
- Focus Groups with Librarian Teachers
Participatory Design workshop and focus group

- Saw an opportunity to use Nancy Fried Foster’s ethnographic methods on a small scale
- Recruited undergraduates for a two hour session
- In the library
- With food
- Draw your ideal study space and tell us about it
- Recruited two groups of library teachers
- Facilitated focus groups to get their input into re-design of the space
½ Reading Room
½ Collab Room
(or quieter collab room)
(less intense reading room)

Board
4 leaf for group work

Round tables like ones from
Level B. big
collab room

Pole

movable board

Couch

4 I like the window view
and it would be nice to
be able to read in front of room.
Also, I need more (and I can use a little
more rowdier! (always popular))
Large conference table can be used for individual study and can be reserved by groups for meetings (restrict hours when room can be reserved).

This table would maintain the Hansen Room's purpose, but would also open the space for both individual/group studying - multiple people can use the table at a time.

* Wall space could be used for art display (student art).
Key:
- X = chair
- Swivel chairs with arm rests
- X = sofa chair
- Windows (transparent shades)

Notes:
- Ventilation?
  - Windows can heat up the room
- Lighting?
  - Lamps on desks can block view of board
- Lightweight & moveable tables & chairs
  - Students can use their own laptops
- Everything in the room is moveable in case students want to collaborate on a project
  - Podium included
- Door entrance
- Trash
Collaborative
1. Meeting/Planning
   - Digital Chalk Board
     - Records + Prints Notes
   - Meeting tables
     - w/ Mics
   - Computer Work Stations
     - Printer
     - Copy Machine
     - Phone/FAX

Lamont Lounge
(Cafe Extension)
- silent reading room
  w/ Carrels + space for
  Laptop stations
- Food + drinks allowed
- Flat Screen TV
  (muted) w/ 24 hour
  News Carriage

Multi-Media
2. Production Studio
   - Green Screen
   - Interview Space
   - ALV Production Recording
   - Training
Key ideas:
- The room should be a pine for study groups (i.e., more focused than the rate but noise is appropriate)
- Students should be able to
- More of the room for socializing
- Study area with whiteboard and projector
- Group learning
- Reference posters should be placed
- Many plugs for computer charges
The Larsen Room, March 2012
The Larsen Room, March 2012
What’s in the room

- media:scape tables
- Hanging/rolling white boards
- Soft seating
- Wall monitor
- 8 laptops (4 PC, 4 Mac) for student/instructor use
- A/V closet with Crestron controller
How do the tables work?

• For students: can plug in one or more laptops and display on one or two monitors
• For library instructors: can broadcast to all screens from instructor’s machine
• We are the only institution using the tables in tandem
Instructor ‘broadcasting’
Students Plugged In
Downsides/Challenges

• Continuum of library instructor response: from “Oh, no. I will never teach in that room,” to “That looks cool. I’m going to try teaching in there.”
• Helping staff get used to media:scape
• media:scape stations are fixed in place
• We couldn’t include some features teaching library staff wanted and many features students wanted
• Inability to broadcast to one screen and have other screen ‘local’
• Not entirely Mac-friendly
Upsides/Opportunities

• Popular with students, who “got it” immediately
• Much more flexible than previous set up; better for small group instruction
• Liked by some instructors – great for collaborative assignments and “active learning”
• Students loved the Participatory Design workshop and so did staff
• Data from the PD workshop informs other projects
• Shows leadership from the library in teaching innovation on campus
Larsen Room October 16, 2012
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