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## Library Space Assessment Poster

Kaitlyn Shamp

*St. John Fisher College, kks04047@sjfc.edu*

Chenisvel Nunez

*St. John Fisher College, cn01722@sjfc.edu*

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# Library Space Assessment Poster

**Abstract**

Objective: How are students using our library spaces?

- Collect evidence to inform future space planning and renovations
- What works? What does not work? What is needed?
- Physical spaces must meet the needs of a 21st century student.

**Document Type**

Undergraduate Project

**Department**

Sociology

**Professor's Name**

David Baronov

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**Subject Categories**

Sociology

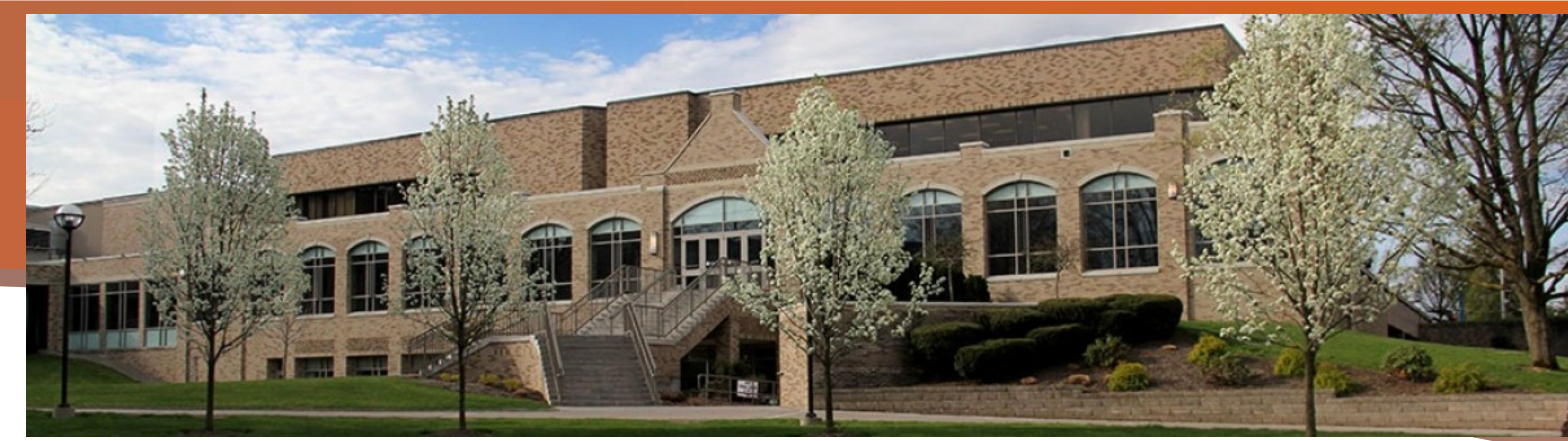
**Comments**

Poster presented the St. John Fisher College Student Scholarship and Creative Work Symposium on April 28, 2017.

View additional Library Space Assessment presentation [here](#).

# Library Space Assessment

Chenisvel Nunez and Kaitlyn Shamp



## Research Question and Introduction

**Objective:** How are students using our library spaces?

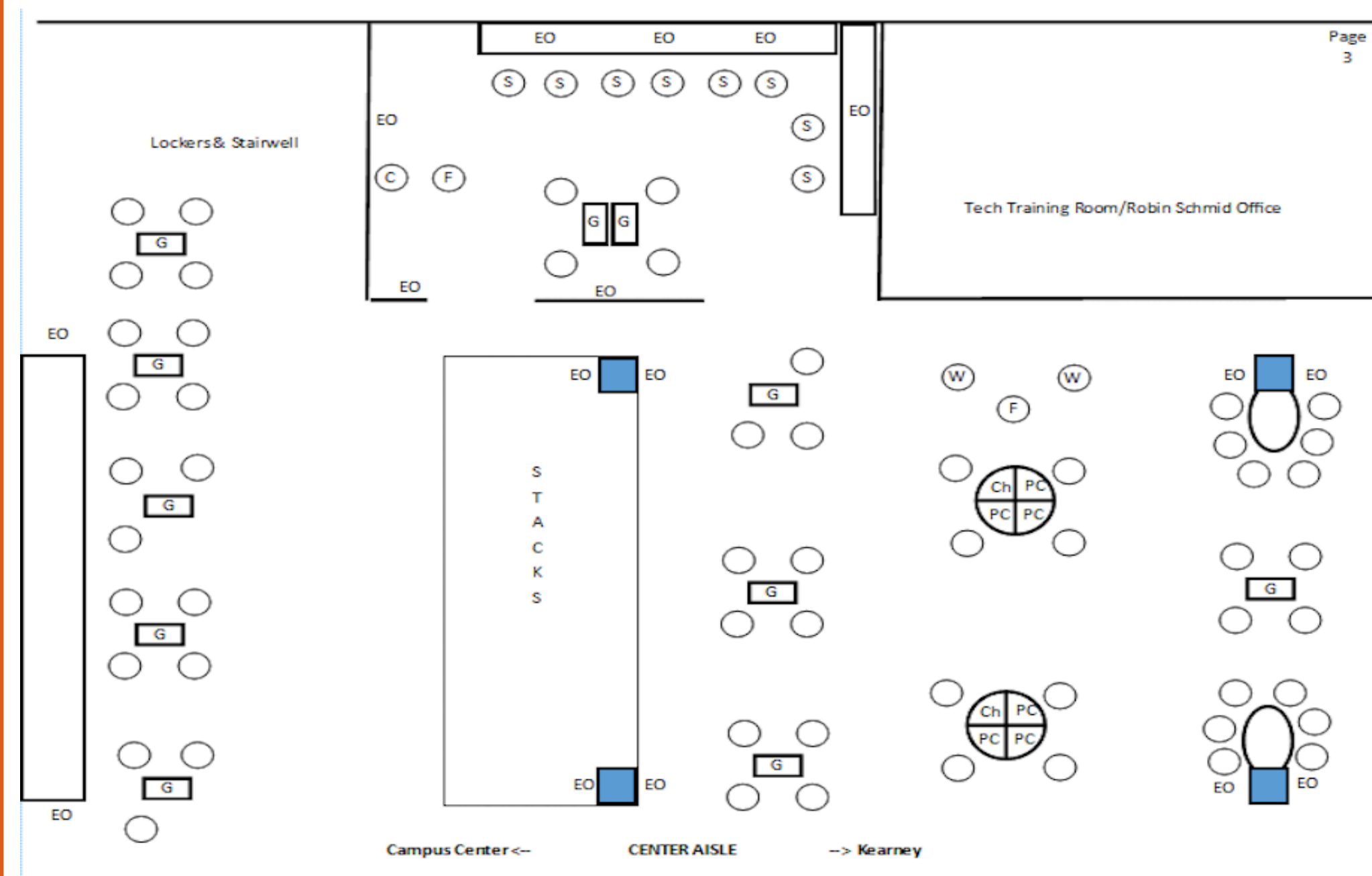
- Collect evidence to inform future space planning and renovations
- What works? What does not work? What is needed?
- Physical spaces must meet the needs of a 21<sup>st</sup> century student.

### Methods

IRB approval numbers: 3626-102016-11 (focus groups & survey) and 3536-021816-08 (seating sweeps)

### Seating Sweeps: Spring 2016

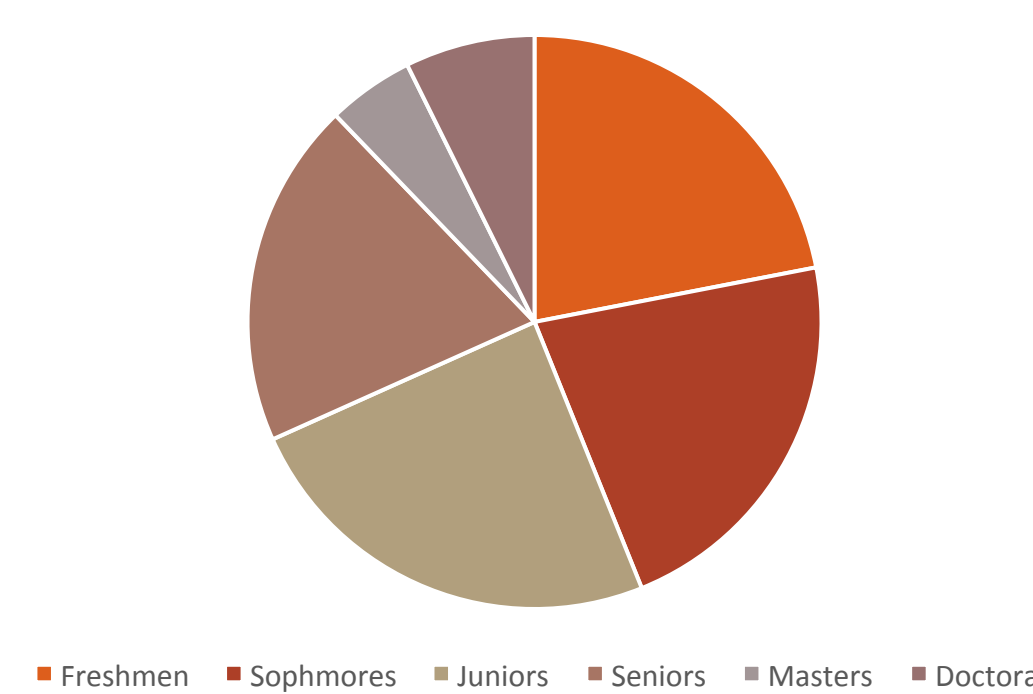
- 3 times/day, 2 non-consecutive weeks
- Recorded activity and personal items (e.g., cell phone, headphones, talking, group work, etc.)
- Anyone in the library
- Recorded by library staff floor by floor



### Focus Groups: Spring 2017

- ~ 1 hour sessions
- 2 sets of questions: undergraduate, graduate
- Student run sessions – no library staff or faculty influence
- Participants (N=41)

Focus Group Participants



### Survey: Spring 2017

- Development based on common focus group responses
- Gift card incentive
- Created using Qualtrics
- Piloted with small groups of students
- To boost response rate, emails sent through SG
- Anonymity with survey
- Distributed only to undergraduates
- N=2948 (11% response rate, 319 respondents)

## Findings and Conclusions

### Seating Sweeps:

- Flexible furniture – students sat 1 to a table that would normally sit at least 2
- Technology – multiple, simultaneous device usage – calculators, tablets, laptops, phones, computers; high use of outlets
- Collaborations – group work around one computer, rather than group work stations
- Mix of “settling in” and on-the-go activity

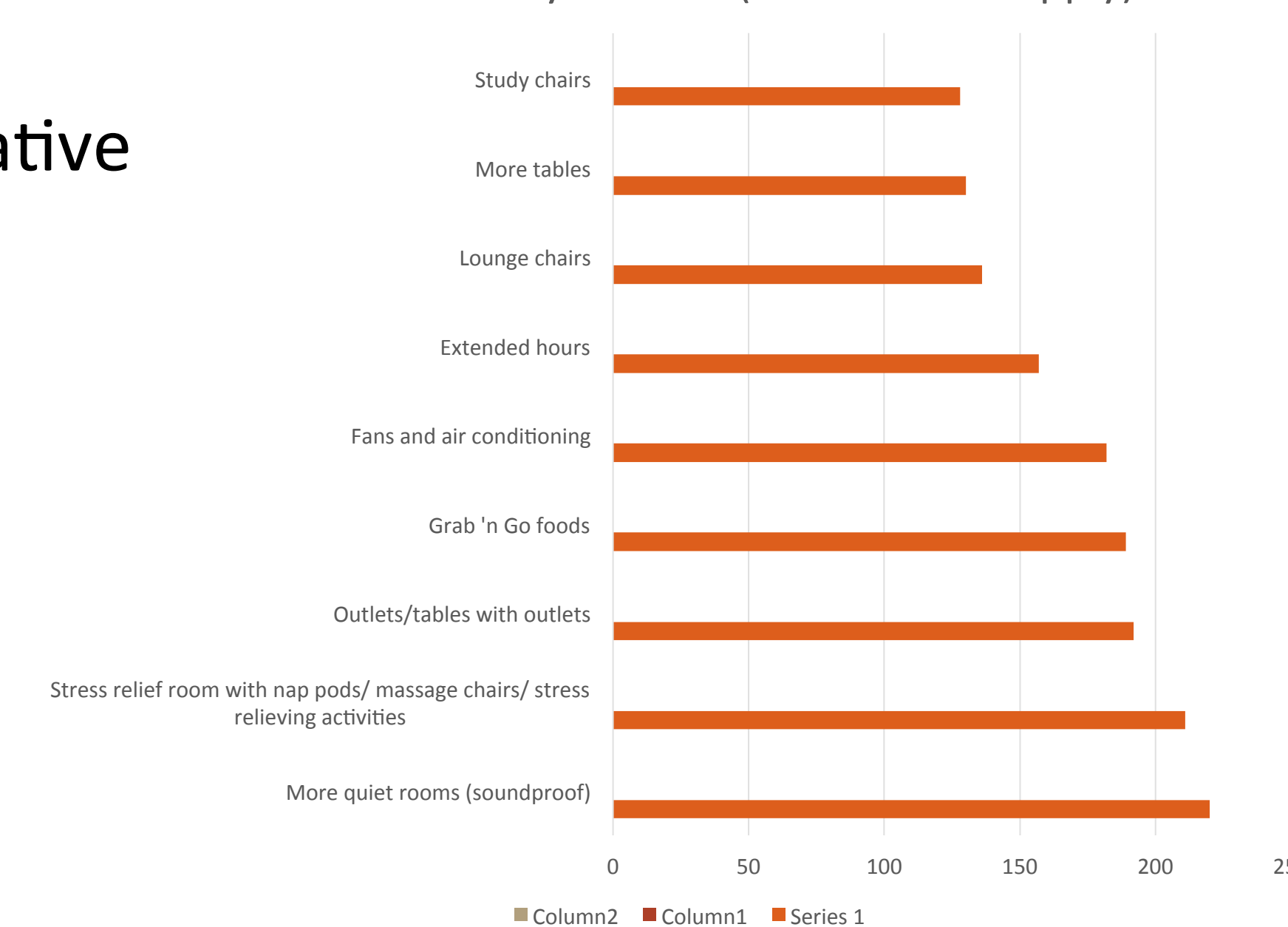
### Focus groups:

- **Most common uses for the library:**
  - Studying
  - Computer use/printing
  - Work on group projects
- **Services and features that students like about the library:**
  - Interlibrary loan
  - Librarians and research desk
  - Group work tables with TV screens
- **Services and features that students would like the library to add:**
  - Stress relief room
  - Extended hours
  - More study rooms on the quiet floor

### Survey:

- Monday – Thursday and Finals Week are popular times
- Academic activities are primary focus
- Academic activities are highly tech-oriented or collaborative
- Quiet floor is most utilized
- Lower level(basement) is underutilized
- Popular responses to “I think the library needs...” :
  - More quiet rooms
  - Nap pods/stress relief rooms
  - Outlets
  - Air conditioning

I think the library needs... (check all that apply)



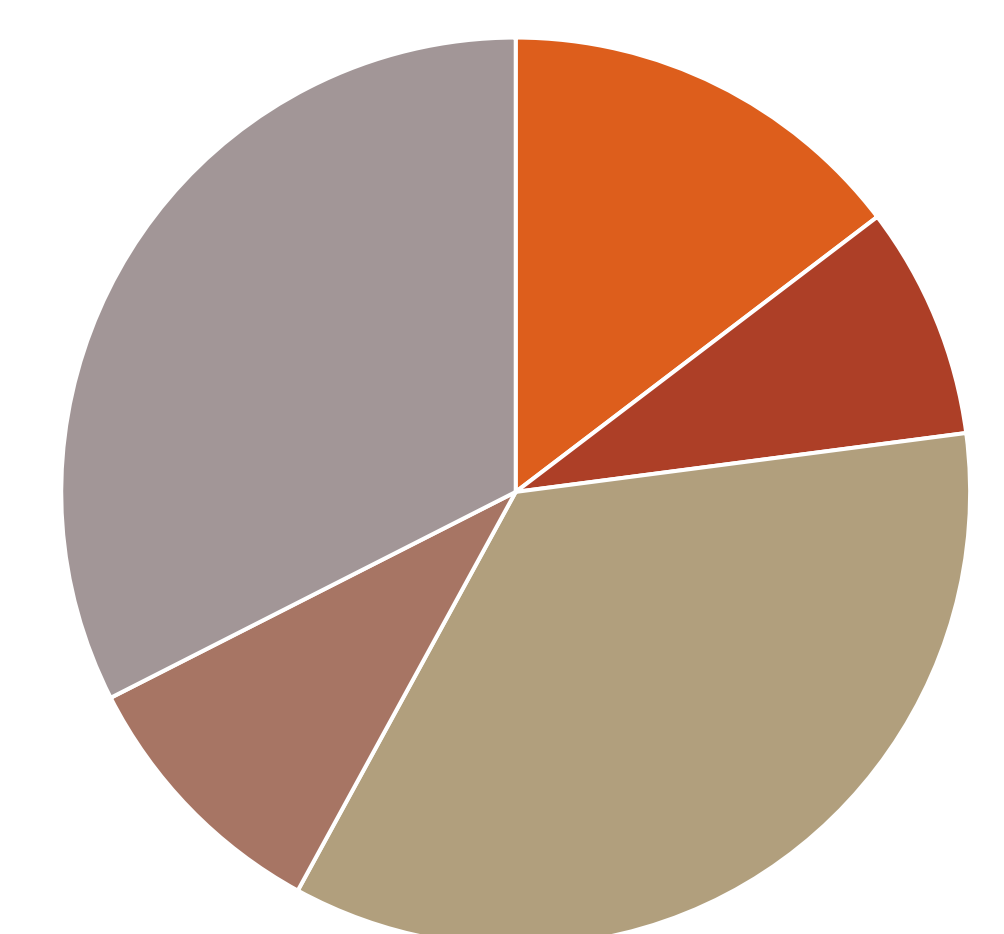
## Limitations

- **Seating Sweeps:**
  - Multiple recorders’ interpretations
- **Focus Groups:**
  - Low graduate participation
- **Survey:**
  - Not a random sample (focus groups target populations)
  - Graduate populations excluded (low participation in focus groups)
  - Excluded demographics (differentiation between commuters/residents)

## Recommendations

- **Small, incremental changes:**
  - New, more smaller tables on upper level
  - Updated seating options
  - Promote available spaces
- **Large scale changes:**
  - Prioritize in Campus Master Plan
  - More outlets (60.7%)
  - New HVAC (57.6%)
  - Grab ‘n Go Foods (59.8%)
  - More lighting (natural and task)

Question: What updated features in the library are most important to you?



## What we learned

- Research method techniques:
  - Lead focus groups
  - Survey design and set-up
- Publication: conference and paper proposal, presentation
- Institutional Review Board/ CITI training

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