

# NOT MERGING WITH THE OTHERS: THE TALE OF MODERNIZING A STUBBORN MATH LIBRARY

## DATA-DRIVEN COLLECTION MANAGEMENT AND LIBRARY SPACING

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### Introduction

Since it was originally built in 1964, the Mathematical Sciences Library of Purdue University Libraries has not undergone significant structural or cosmetic changes. Four librarians later, there is an opportunity to enhance and modernize the Math Library, with University renovation funds.

Library users survey and a weeding project were deemed essential to meeting the goals of a modernized library space. This poster will showcase the results of a survey of the users of the library about their uses and desired services and spaces in the library, and the resulting floor plan.

### Background

The modernization project comes with two major considerations. The first major consideration is the brand new Active Learning Center that will be built in less than 3 years. Six of the other 13 libraries are moving into the new building, which will overshadow any changes that the Math Library undergoes. Secondly, an invested and active disciplinary faculty have demonstrated their resistant to changes to the collection and the space. Any changes must be made with resistance avoidance in mind.

### Method #1: Space Usage

For the week of November 18-22, 2013, a four question Qualtrics survey was conducted to assess overall faculty and student satisfaction. Questions were also asked about the current services and potential new services of the Math Library. The fourth question was an open-ended question for feedback about services and spaces.

### Method #2: Collection Holdings

1. Large Excel files were received from various database and e-journals vendors of the perpetual holdings of the subscribed electronic journals.
2. Those files are then cross-checked with the print catalog holdings.
3. A list of duplicate holdings is generated by the electronic resources specialists.
4. The "essential" journals list as prescribed by the disciplinary faculty is then filtered from the duplicates list.
5. The resulting list of print journals is then identified as potentially weed-able from the collection, thereby freeing shelf space to reallocate floor space to the modernization project.

### Data

1. Overall, I am very satisfied with the services that the Math Library offers. Current Services include, but are not limited to: group study rooms, printing, scanning, calculator borrowing, and textbook borrowing.

#	Answer	Response	%
0	Strongly disagree	5	7%
1	Somewhat disagree	4	6%
2	Neither agree or disagree	5	7%
3	Somewhat agree	24	34%
4	Strongly agree	32	46%
	Total	70	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	0
Max Value	4
Mean	3.06
Variance	1.42
Standard Deviation	1.19
Total Responses	70

2. Thinking about the services and spaces of the Math Library, select which services and spaces do you use the most often.

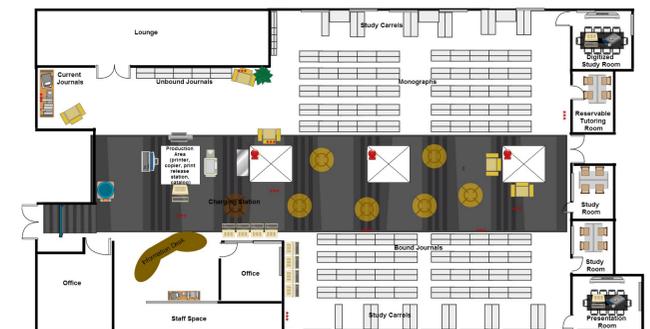
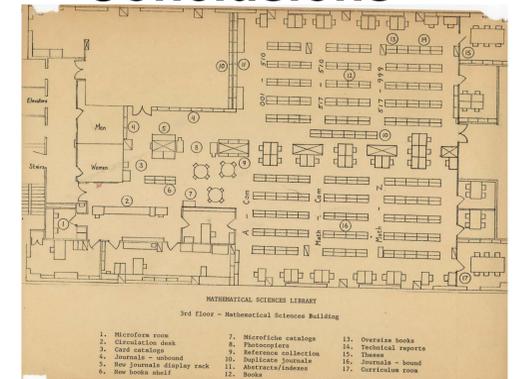
#	Answer	Response	%
1	computers	15	20%
2	printing/copying services	15	20%
3	study rooms	18	24%
4	calculators	0	0%
5	online resources	37	50%
6	textbook borrowing	36	49%
7	journals and monographs	32	43%
8	check-out on-site research assistance	13	18%
9	single person study carrels	12	16%
10	I don't use any of the Math Library Services and Spaces	4	5%

There were 74 respondents: faculty, undergraduate students, and graduate students, 22 of whom had additional comments about the space and services.

3. Thinking about the spaces in the Math Library, select the most important improvements that could enhance your ability to study and do research. Select as many you like.

#	Answer	Response	%
1	More TI app computers	11	22%
2	presentation practice room with projector and computer access	10	20%
3	laptops that can be used within the library	3	6%
4	charging station for laptops, cell phones, tablets, etc.	17	34%
5	more comfortable/lounge seating	26	52%
6	group study room with projector and computer access for collaboration on group projects	11	22%
7	more software added to computers	2	4%
8	headphones that can be used within the library	5	10%
9	reservable tutoring room	13	26%
10	more round tables for collaboration	6	12%
11	Write-In:	12	24%
12	Write-In:	1	2%

### Conclusions



Proposed Math Library Floor Plan

The results were used to draft a floor plan to be implemented in Spring and Summer 2014. The proposed floor plan will a) minimize changes to the collection footprint, b) increase the number of collaborative spaces, c) infuse technology into existing collaborative spaces, d) modernize the existing space by creating a more open floor plan, while increasing the sightline, and e) increase the number of computing stations in the Math Library.

### Next Steps

1. Prioritize proposed changes
2. Identify funding sources
3. Create a project management chart
4. Identify collection changes/ needs
5. Create an ideal implementation timeline
6. Modernize!!