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**Title**

Using a photo survey to inform space planning in an academic library

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# Using a photo survey to inform space planning in an academic library

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# UCSC McHenry Library

- Construction: 1966-68
- Major addition: 2005-08
- Seismic renovation: 2008-11



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# 2010 photo survey

- 12 photos about 12 questions
- Follow-up interview
- \$25 bookstore gift certificate raffle



The poster features three images: a close-up of hands holding a camera lens, a person in a green shirt pointing at a wall covered in yellow sticky notes, and a group of people sitting at a table in a library setting.

**UCSC LIBRARY PHOTO SURVEY**  
January 25 to February 7, 2010

The UCSC Library wants to know how we can improve your library experience. Take pictures that answer our 12 questions about how you study and how you use the Library. Win prizes and influence how we develop the new McHenry Library.

Need a camera? We have two compact digital cameras available for checkout at the McHenry Library Media Center.

The survey is open to UCSC undergraduate and graduate students only.

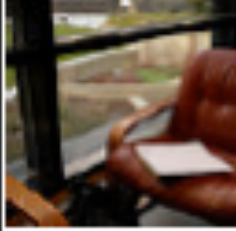











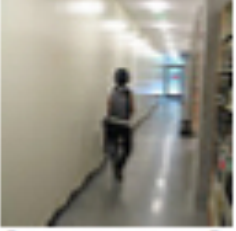


For more information, visit: <http://library.ucsc.edu/2010-photo-survey>

Questions? Email us at: [showus@library.ucsc.edu](mailto:showus@library.ucsc.edu)

# Survey questions

1. Where you study in the library
2. Your favorite place in the library
3. A place you get lost in the library
4. Your favorite place to study
5. Your personal workspace
6. Stuff you take to class
7. Your study group
8. How you keep track of your life
9. Something you've noticed that others don't
10. Something you consider "hi-tech"
11. Something you cannot live without while studying
12. A piece of furniture you'd like to see in the library



	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5
1. Where I study in the Library	 <p>Second Floor, McHenry Library. Chairs across from the international newspaper display.</p>	 <p>Located in the first floor, next to the elevators, and vending machines. I chose this space because it is isolated and very quiet.</p>	 <p>4th floor with two chairs put together looking out the window</p>		 <p>I like this particular furniture because it's soft but not enough space for books and laptop.</p>
2. Favorite place in the Library	 <p>I love to take a look at the books that have been picked up and put down in the return books cart area on the Third Floor. There's always an interesting read to be found here.</p>	 <p>Located in the media center. I really like this room because it provides private study area where a white board, comfortable rolling chairs, and TV helps better express our ideas and enhance our learning.</p>	 <p>Balcony on 4th floor</p>		 <p>I like quiet study area!!</p>
3. Place I feel lost	 <p>Even with the book number in hand, I always find searching through the stacks daunting. Some more help here, would be nice!</p>	 <p>How does this work? I believe that if these shelf's were to be labeled by subjects it would easier to find books without struggling in moving these shelf's</p>	 <p>[no comment]</p>	 <p>Confused near the copy machine</p>	 <p>there are no signs indicating if tables are for group study or individual study.</p>

# Survey submissions

# Follow-up interviews

- Five one-hour interviews
- Asked open-ended questions about each photo
- Everyone got a \$25 gift certificate





# What we learned

- Ambience and comfort mattered
- Access to nutritious food mattered
- Individual quiet study space was still important
- One size did not fit all
- We needed to improve outreach and marketing



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# What we did

- Spring 2010 CUIP student survey
- Improved tech lending
- Informed the furniture plan
- Developed new study room policies



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## References

Foster, N. F., & Gibbons, S. (2007). *Studying students: The undergraduate research project at the University of Rochester*. Chicago: Association of College and Research Libraries.

Gabridge, T., Gaskell, M., & Stout, A. (2008). Information seeking through students' eyes: The MIT photo diary study. *College & Research Libraries*, 69(6), 510-522.

## Project documents

<https://goo.gl/Vdax88>

## Acknowledgments

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