How Library Learning Spaces Contribute to Student Success
A LibValue Project

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Goals

- Obtain the Best Data
- Make Strategic Decisions
- Demonstrate Value
- Retain & Graduate Students
Changes in the Higher Ed Landscape

- A new funding formula
- A new university initiative
- Aligning Library priorities with campus
- Accreditation
Lack of Change...

The retention rate had hovered between 75% and 80% for over a decade...

1. UT is too large and impersonal
2. I had trouble adjusting personally to UT
3. I did not feel like I was part of the university
The Best Data
A New Data Set

- Admissions and demographic data
- Associated Survey ID
  - Year of birth (YYYY)
  - Sex
  - Ethnicity
  - Year started at UTK
  - ACT and/SAT or equivalent score
  - Transfer student? (Y or N)
  - Year and Term of survey (YYTT)
- Progress-towards-degree data
- Associated Survey ID
  - Major
  - Cumulative GPA
  - Cumulative Credit Hours
  - Class Standing
  - Year and Term of posting
  - Progress-towards-degree data (YYTT)
Strategic Decisions
Evidence-based Decision Making

Assess the value of library Commons resources in support of the instructional mission of the University

1. Define “success”
2. Aggregate available data
3. Gather new data
4. Make meaningful connections
The Surveys

Use of Physical Space

Most frequently used resources by class standing

- Distributed in person
- Focus on services used in the Commons on a typical visit
- 957 respondents

Learning Environment

Contribution to student success and retention

- Taken by GenEd students
- Use of and feelings about the value of the Commons to their experience at UT
- 20% response rate from total class enrollment / 146
Identify your class standing

Commons Usage by Class Standing

- Freshman
- Sophomore
- Junior
- Senior
- Graduate
Identify your class standing

Commons Usage by Class Standing

- Freshman
- Sophomore
- Junior
- Senior
- Graduate
How often do you use the Commons to:

**Work on assignments**
- Never
- A few times during the semester
- Once a month
- Once a week
- Multiple times a week
- Multiple times a day
- Once a day

**Socialize**
- Never
- A few times during the semester
- Once a month
- Once a week
- Multiple times a week
- Multiple times a day
- At least once a day
Value to the University
% of all respondents vs. top students

Research Assistance  Tutoring  Computer Support

- All
- GPA > 3.5
Retain & Graduate

Photo from UT Commencement
http://commencement.utk.edu
Q. To what extent does the Commons

- Help you do better in class
- Make studying more enjoyable
- Make you feel more involved in the university
- Promote learning
- Serve as a place to meet people

Choose one of the following:

- Very Much
- Quite a Bit
- Some

0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
I want to thank the library for the Commons. I feel like I would be lagging behind as a student without it.

It’s my home away from home.
Contact

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HTTP://LIBVALUE.CCI.UTK.EDU/