

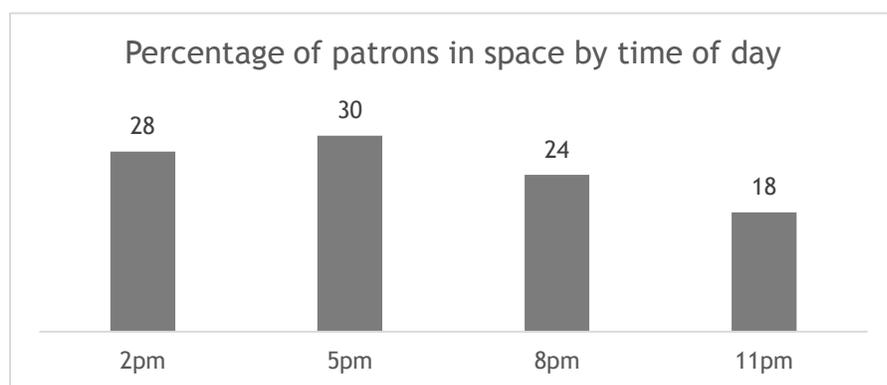
Perkins Library space usage II

Background¹

From February 11th to March 17th 2015, AUX staff conducted a second set of observational sampling of space usage on the second and fourth floors of Perkins library using Suma.² This observation mirrored that of fall 2014 in many ways, though it was simplified and streamlined. The goal of this observation was to provide a second set of comparative data at a different time of year that also included weekend and evening hours. Four observations were recorded for each day of the week, Monday through Sunday (a total of 28 observational sessions).³ Observations took place at 2pm, 5pm, 8pm and 11pm. Data was collected by Edge student workers, AUX student workers, and AUX staff. The only activity recorded during this observation was collaborative versus individual work. Because the same number of observations were collected each day in the same hours, we are able to better compare occupancy by time of day.

Most fall 2014 findings were upheld by the spring observation. New items of note are mentioned here.

Findings



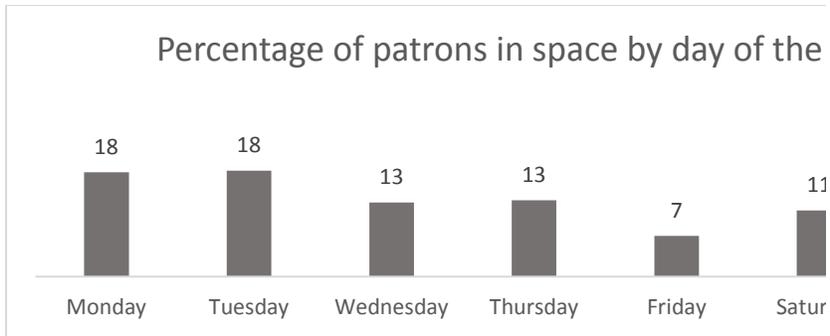
Overall, the most people are using the space from 2-5pm. This analysis was not possible during the fall testing, due to differences in data.

When we compare the number of people in the space by day of the week, we find that Sunday-Tuesday is the busiest time for Perkins 2 and 4. This analysis was not possible during the fall testing, due to inconsistently collected data.

¹ For more information, please contact emily.daly@duke.edu

² Suma is a tablet-based open-source toolkit for data collection and analysis
<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/reports/suma>

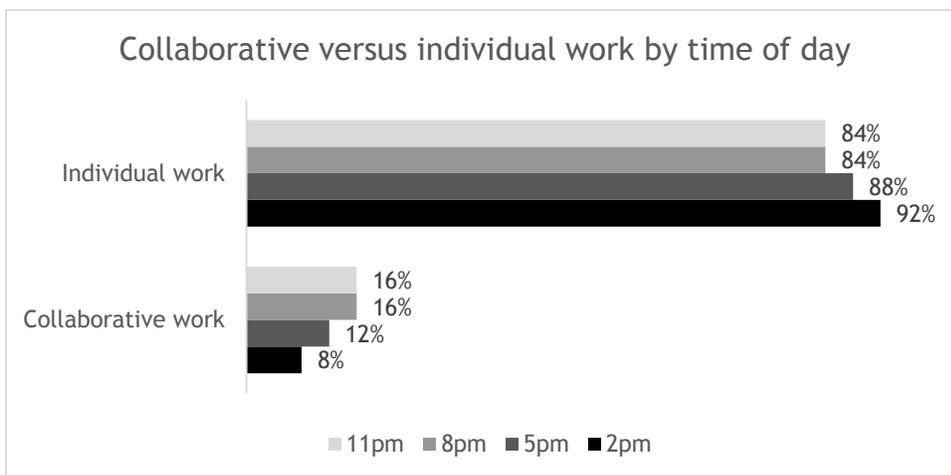
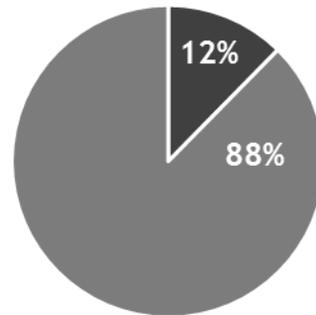
³ While only one week's worth of data was collected, data collection was spread out over five weeks due to the difficulty of scheduling people to collect observations on the weekends and late at night.



Collaborative versus individual work

During the fall semester, we had significant problems with observers forgetting to tag each person with “individual” or “collaborative” work. This time only 23 people were counted without a tag, or 1%.

We found that 88% of all work was individual and 12% was collaborative. This is about the same rate found to be individual in fall semester, but a higher rate for collaboration (overall it was 7% in fall). Data was also analyzed by time of day. Collaborative work was found to be more common as the day progresses: almost twice as common at 8pm and 11pm as at 2pm. When compared to data collected in the fall semester about collaboration rates, the rates found in the spring were much higher. “Afternoon” (1-5pm) had a 3% collaboration rate in the fall, and 2pm had an 8% collaboration rate in the spring. “Evening” (5-11pm) had a 9% collaboration rate in the fall, and both 8pm and 11pm had a 16% collaboration rate in the spring. The spring numbers are more accurate because nearly every person counted was tagged as either collaborative or individual work.



Furniture use by time of day

When percentages of total use are compared regardless of actual numbers, usage rates of different furniture types remain pretty steady throughout the day. For example, carrels represent 38% of use at 2pm and 34.5% of use at 11pm.

