

Common Grounds

Space and Services for Serious Scholars

Scholars Commons Pilot Project

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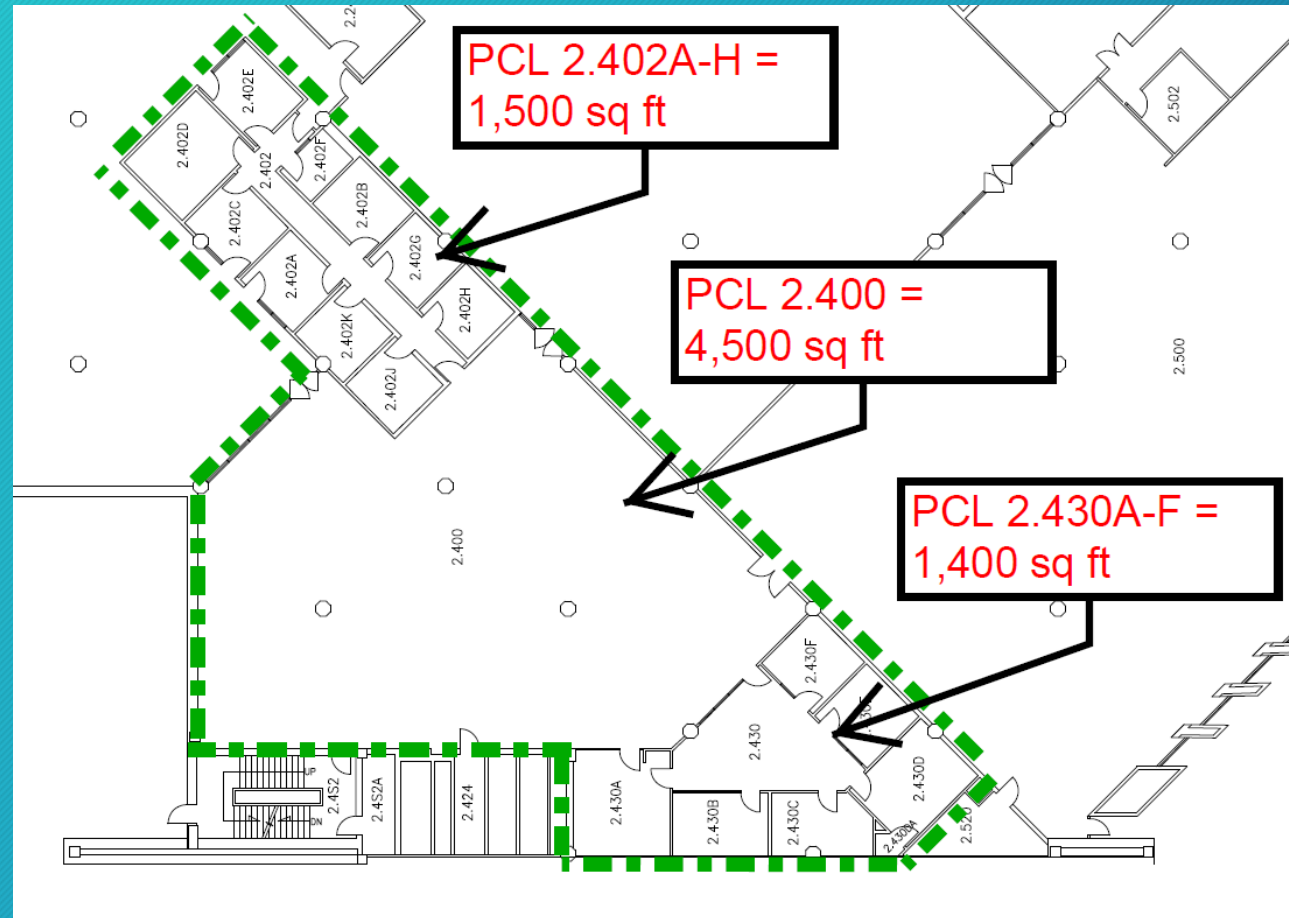


The University of Texas at Austin

University of Texas Libraries

Scholars Commons

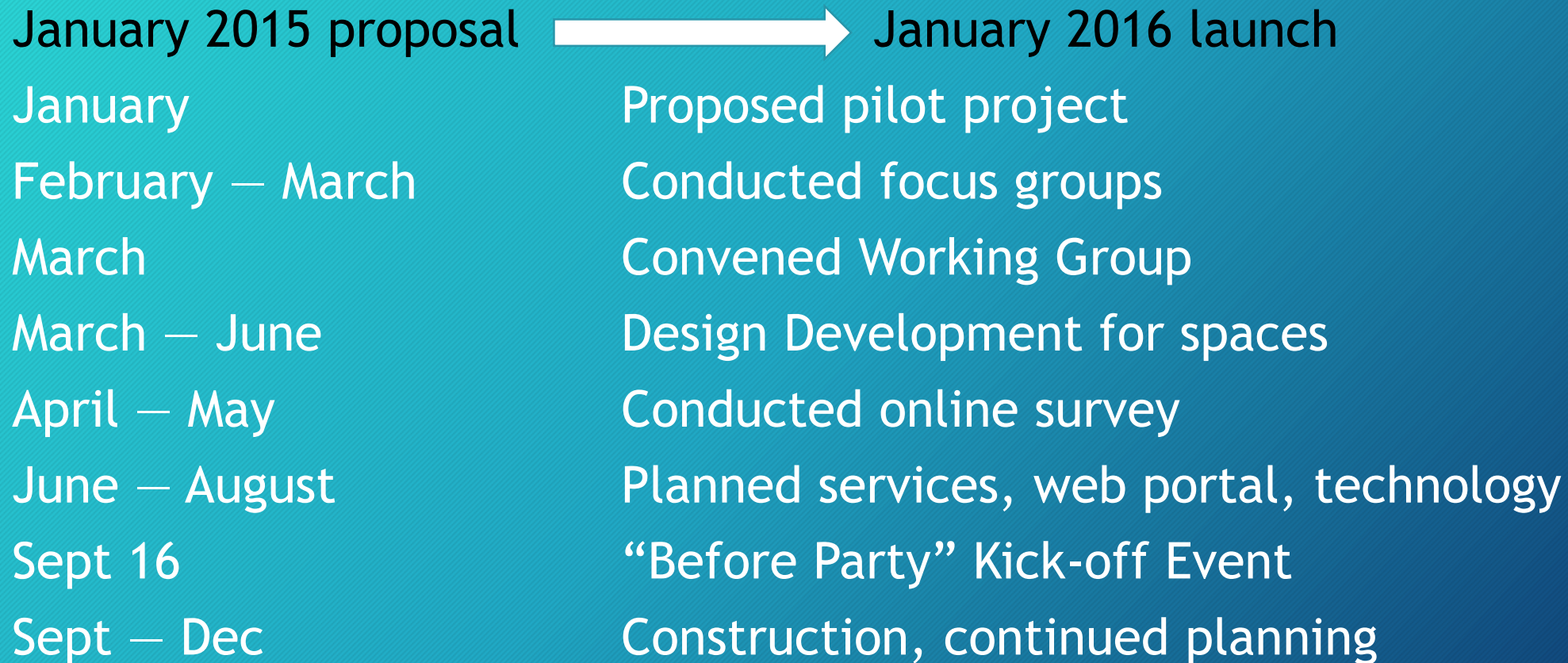
Pilot Space



Project Goals

- Space for graduate student use
- Services for (and by) graduate students
- Technology and tools for digital scholarship
- Silent study space for serious students
- Salon area for presentations, events and exhibits
- Low renovation cost = future flexibility

Project Timeline



Working Group

Administrators

Chris Carter, Director of Planning and Operations

Catherine Hamer, Associate Director for User Services

Convener

Jenifer Flaxbart, Research & Liaison Services Librarian

Liaison Librarians and Staff

Allyssa Guzman, Research & Liaison Services Senior Library Specialist

Janelle Hedstrom, Education Librarian

Colleen Lyon, Scholarly Communications Librarian

Elise Nacca, Learning Librarian

Mary Rader, Global Studies Coordinator

Advisors

Aaron Choate, Interim Assistant Director for Technology Innovation Strategies

Krystal Wyatt-Baxter, Assessment Coordinator

Tell us what you need (and want)...

4 Focus Groups, February – March 2015

- 2 with graduate students
- 2 with faculty

Survey, April – May 2015

- 1,133 responses
- distributed by:
 - subject specialist liaisons
 - Graduate Student Assembly (GSA)
 - Graduate Student Writing Group
 - UT Libraries website pop-up

What graduate students want...

- Silence
- Space separate from undergraduates
- Somewhere to heat up meals
- Good coffee
- Natural light
- Comfortable seating
- Outlets

Reality-based planning principles...

- Spaces as perfect as they can be
- Services identified as core to the research lifecycle
- Assessment ongoing, informing adjustments
- Learning and planning for the future
- Commitment to all scholars

Launch

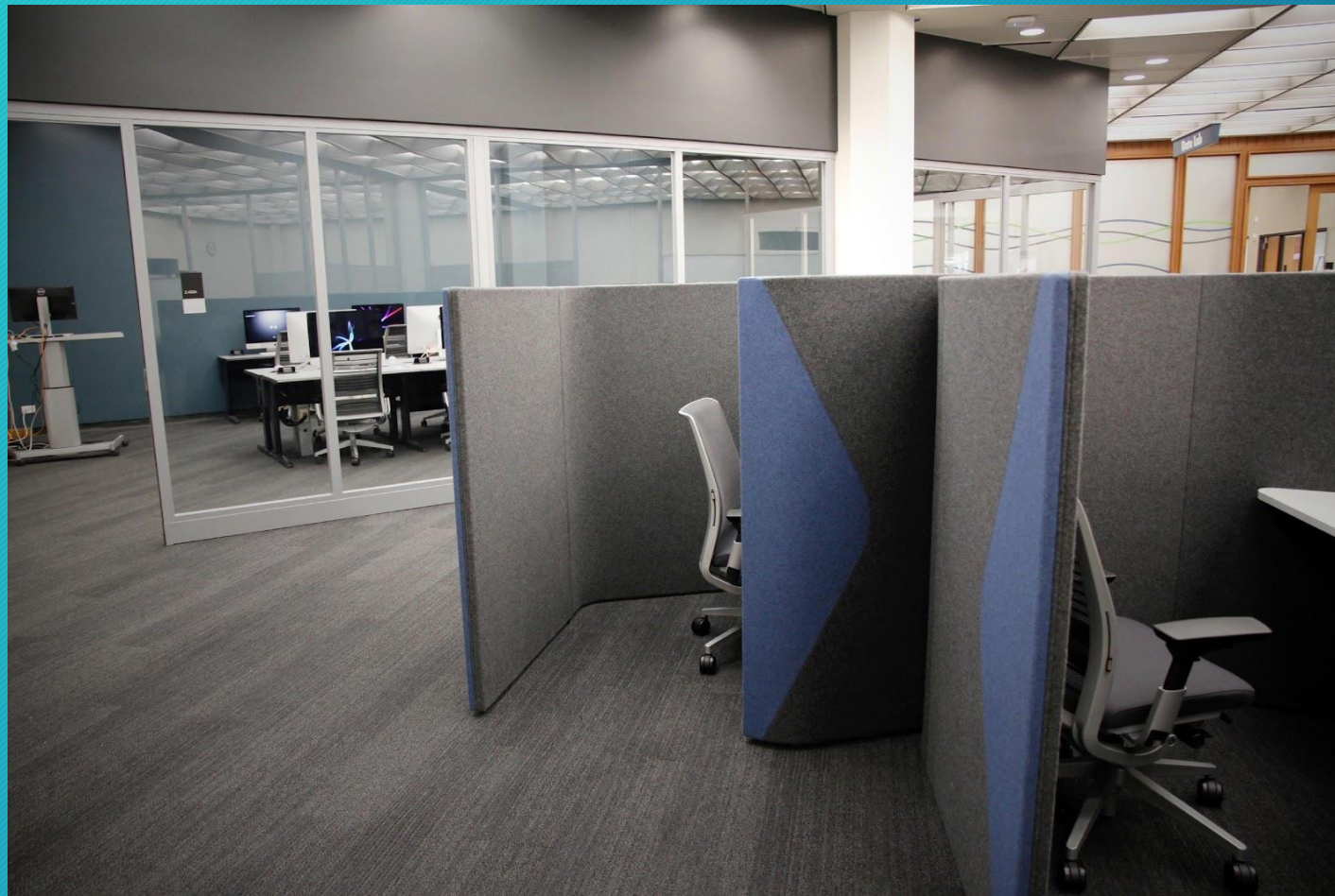
January 2015 proposal  January 2016 launch

January 20

“Launch Party” Opening Event



Spaces: Silent Study Area



Spaces: Silent Study Area - “Salon” Mode



Spaces: Data Lab



Spaces: Data Lab



Spaces: Graduate Landing Spot



Spaces: Graduate Landing Spot



Spaces: Kitchenette

Microwaves and Refrigerator



Varied/Flexible Café Seating



Services



- Scholars Commons online portal:
<http://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/scholarscommons>
- Research consultations (DMP, literature reviews, copyright, etc.)
- Workshop @PCL series, including Carto, Omeka and R/RStudio
- Data and Donuts workshop series, piloted in Spring 2017

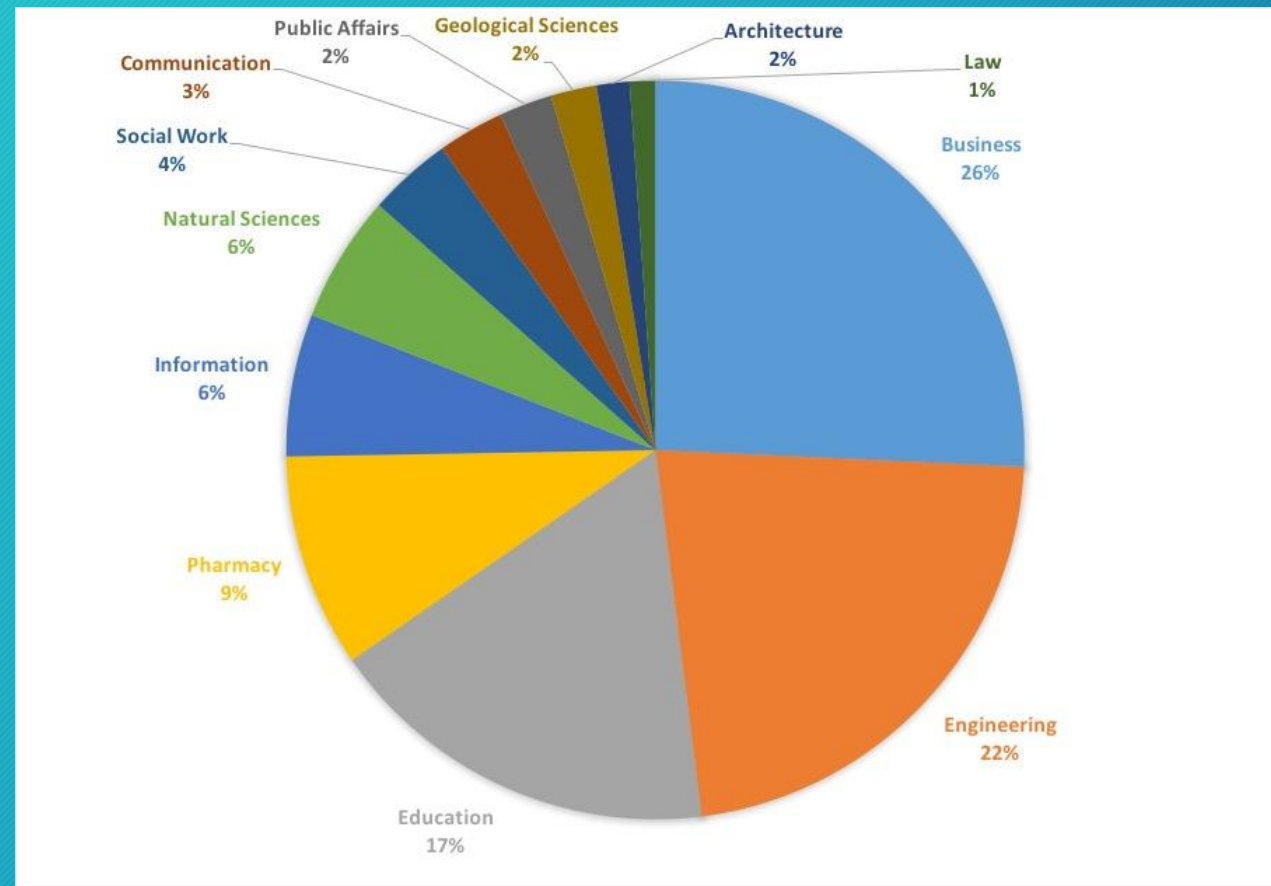
Assessment: Services

- Data Lab class and workshop assessment forms
- Event feedback forms
- Individual consultation feedback invitations

Assessment: Use Metrics

- KeyConfigure software data for Data Lab
- Consultation statistics
- Event attendance and engagement level
- Entrance-mounted people counter (500-800 per weekday)
- Google Analytics for online portal
- Proximity card data for Graduate Landing Spot access

Proximity Card Data: Spring 2017



Events



Events



What students are saying...

“Please add more seats!...there’s only one place like the Scholars Commons”

“I love it in here. The temperature is perfect and the silence is great.”

“I love it so much. So beautiful. Makes me want to cry. A kitchenette? Wow. These sofas? Wow. These OUTLETS. YESSSSS.”

“Oh my goodness! This is my first time in here since it was opened and it's my dream study space! Thank you so much!”

Visioning next steps...

- Expand the Scholars Commons as a Digital Scholarship Center
- Conduct focus group and visioning sessions
- Assess input for schematic design and service plan development
- Build partnerships and advocates for the expansion plan
- Secure funding for implementation

Ask Us Now or Later

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