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Why Do Students Want to Be in the Library If They Aren't Using the Books?

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Why Do Students Want to Be in the Library If They Aren't Using the Books?

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Neilly Dean
River Campus Libraries
University of Rochester

Focus on our Local Users

- User studies with anthropological & ethnographic methods
  - 2003/04: Faculty
  - 2004/06: Undergraduate students
  - 2006/08: Graduate students
  - 2007/09: How people search
  - 2008/09: Science libraries in digital age

Process

Library Services
Library Spaces
Library Digital Tools

Research Question

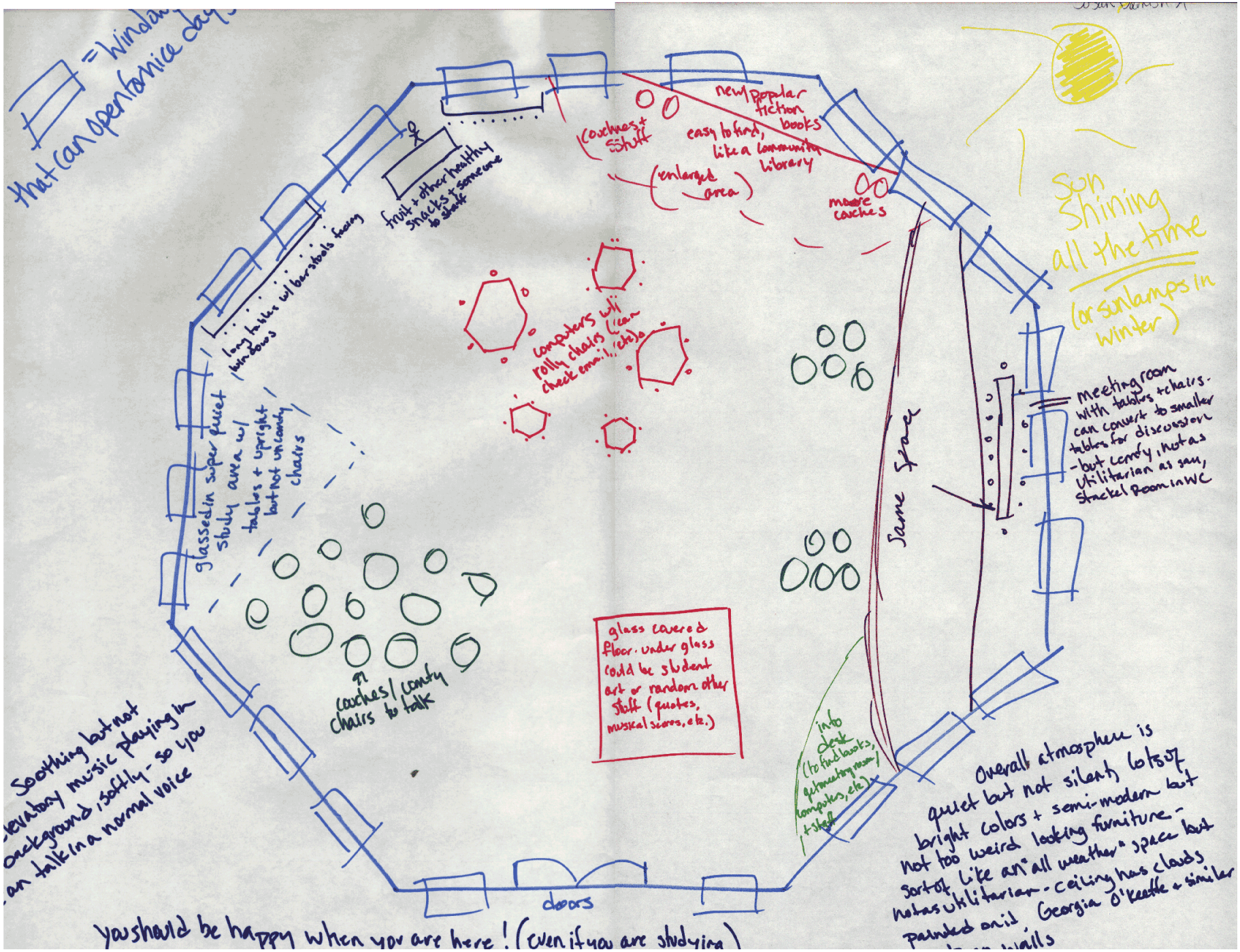
- How can we explain student preference for using “library” space over others?
- What do students need to make the most of academic opportunities?
- What can libraries do to better meet student needs in time of rapid change?

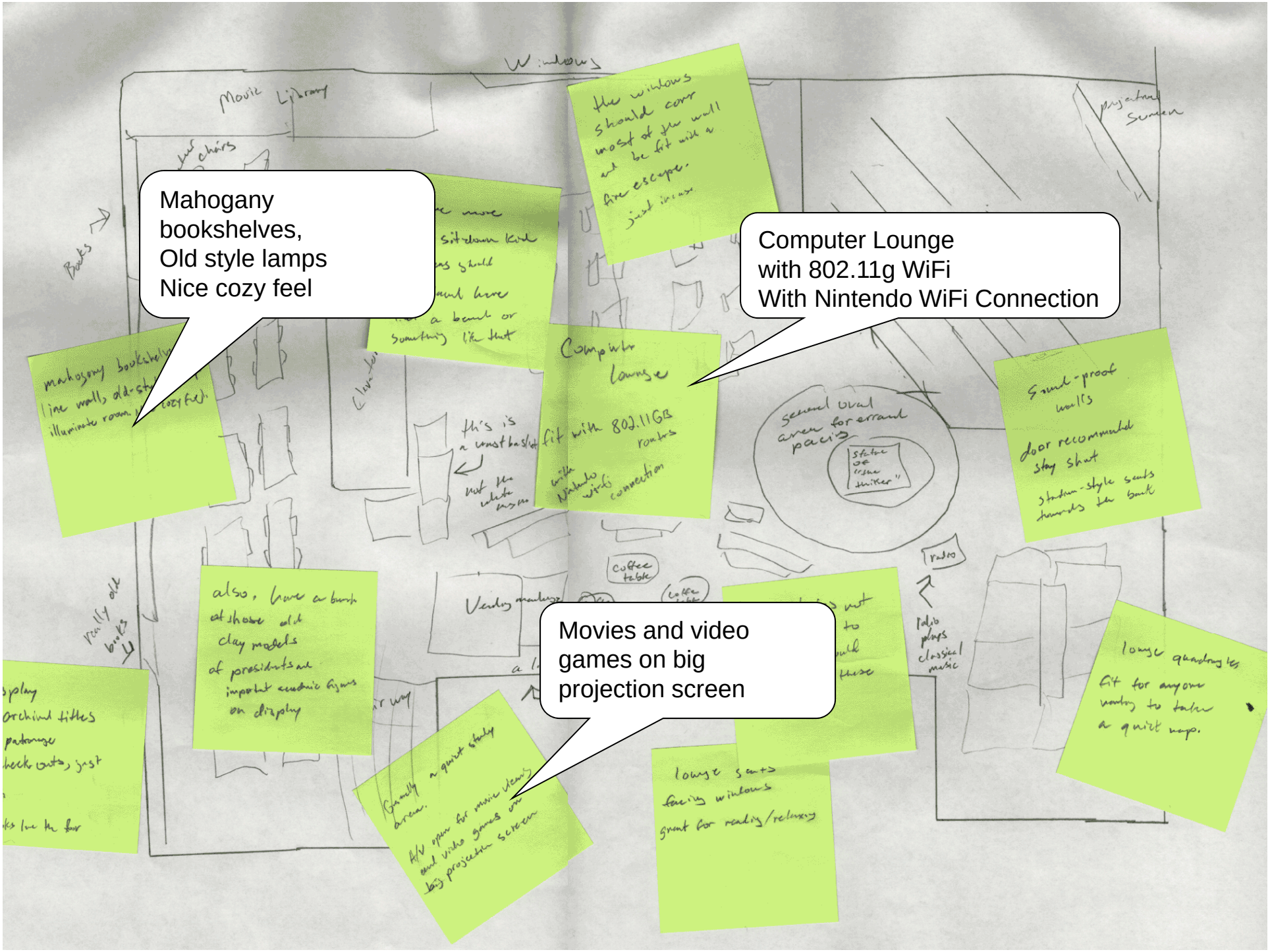
Case Study: Gleason Library

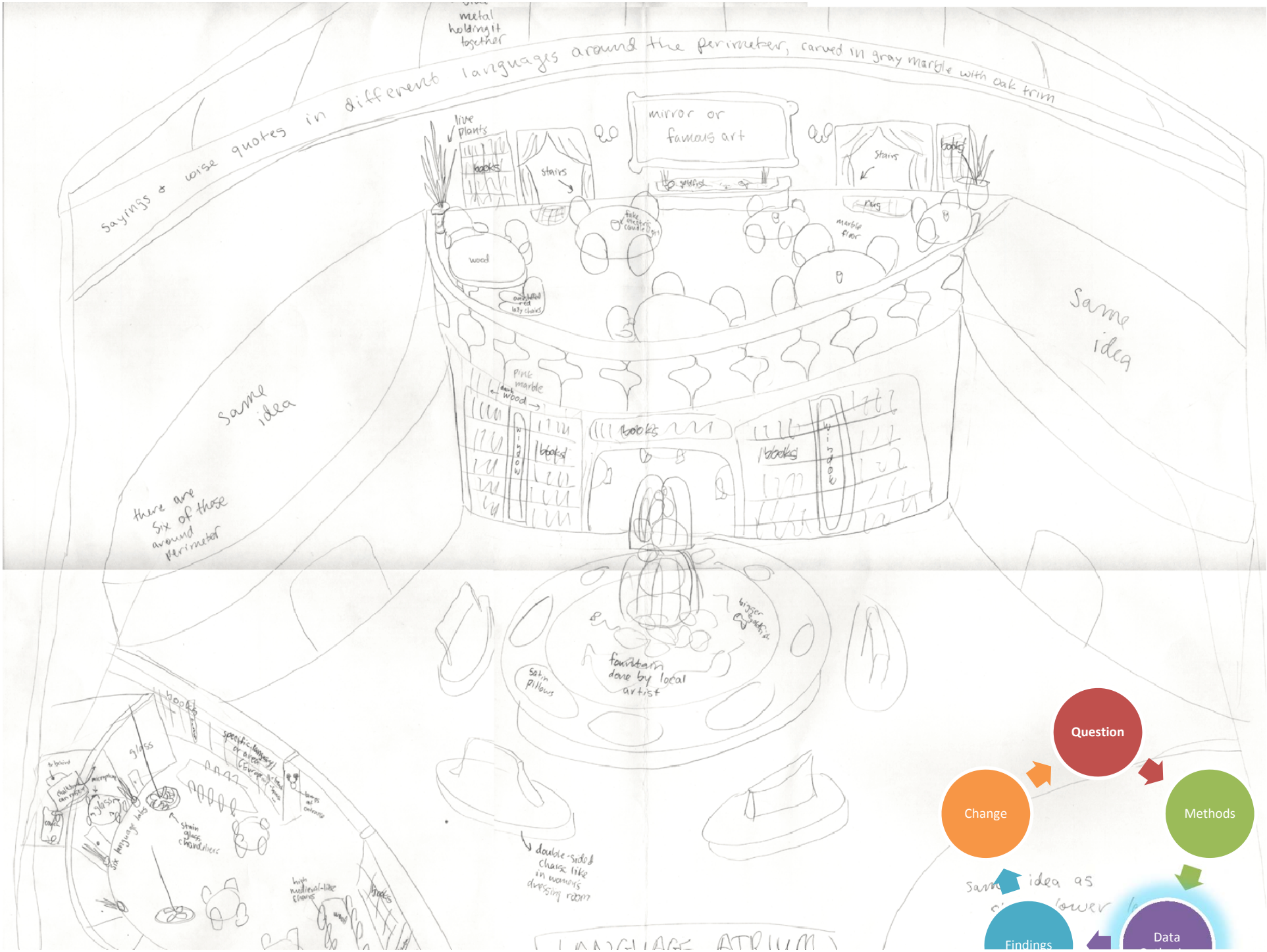
- $5M donation to renovate library and create a “student-centered space”
- What types of library spaces do our students need?

Design Workshop

- Walk-in participation ($5 & Free Food!)
- “Imagine the library has a big, new, empty space and they asked You to design it…It is exactly the way you wanted it to be and you love it and want to go there a lot. Show us what it looks like.”

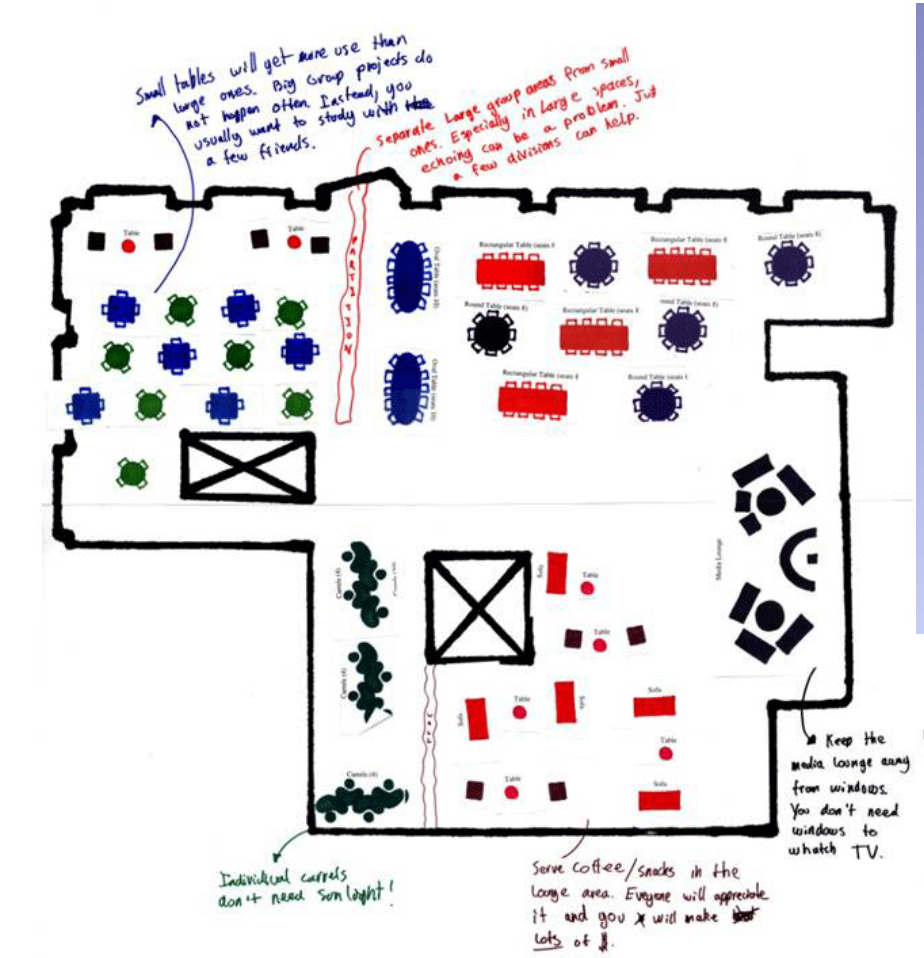

= windows that can open for nice days
long tables w/ barstools facing windows
fruit + other healthy snacks + someone to staff
couches + stuff
new/popular fiction books
easy to find, like a community library
(enlarged area)
more couches
sun shining all the time
(or sun lamps in winter)
computers w/ rolly chairs (can check email, etc.)
glassed in super quiet study area w/ tables + upright but not uncomfy chairs
meeting room with tables + chairs - can convert to smaller tables for discussion - but comfy, not as utilitarian as say, Stacks Room in WC
same space
couches/comfy chairs to talk
glass covered floor. under glass could be student art or random other stuff (quotes, musical scores, etc.)
info desk (to find books, get meeting room/computer, etc.) + staff
doors
Soothing but not elevatory music playing in background, softly - so you can talk in a normal voice
Overall atmosphere is quiet but not silent, lots of bright colors + semi-modern but not too weird looking furniture - sort of like an "all weather" space but not as utilitarian - ceiling has clouds painted on it. Georgia O'Keeffe + similar
you should be happy when you are here! (even if you are studying)

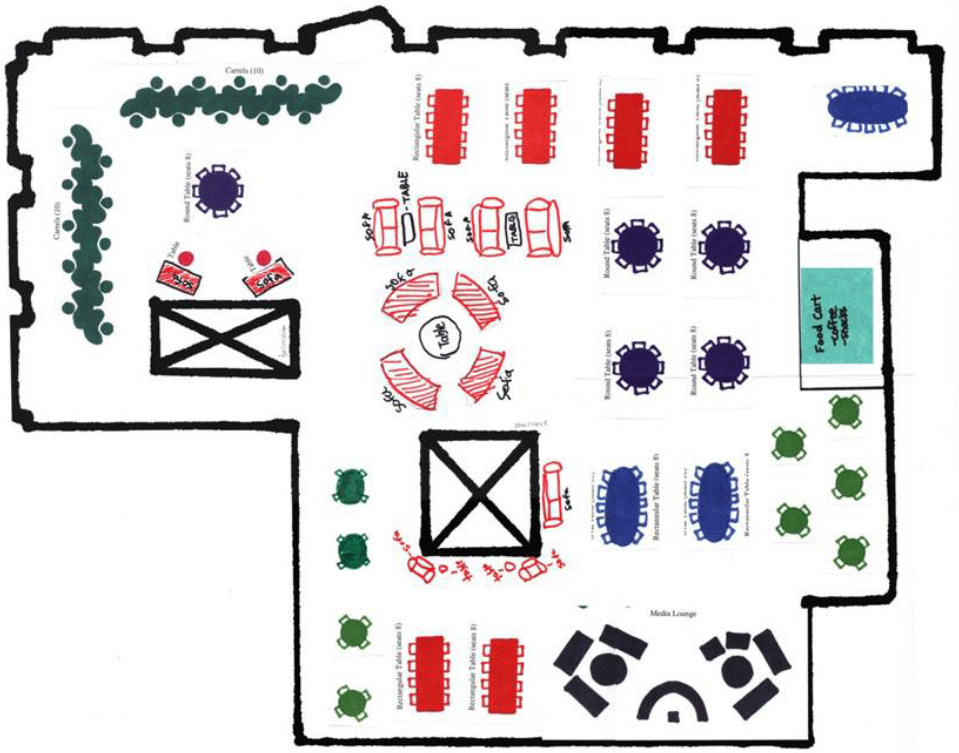

Mahogany
bookshelves,
Old style lamps
Nice cozy feel
Computer Lounge
with 802.11g WiFi
With Nintendo WiFi Connection
Movies and video
games on big
projection screen


metal holding it together
sayings & wise quotes in different languages around the perimeter, carved in gray marble with oak trim
live plants
books
stairs
mirror or famous art
stairs
books
rug
marble floor
wood
overstuffed red lazy chairs
Same idea
Same idea
pink marble
dark wood
windows
books
books
windows
there are six of these around perimeter
bigger goldfish
fountain done by local artist
satin pillows
books
glass
specific language or area (European)
stain glass chandeliers
six language tabs
high medieval-like chairs
books
double-sided chaise like in women's dressing room
LANGUAGE ATRIUM
Question
Methods
Data
Findings
Change

Composite

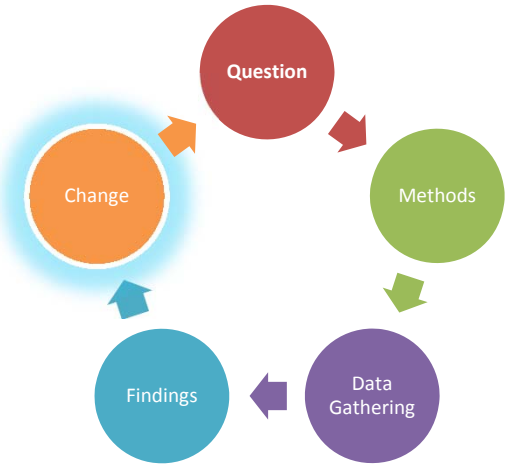
- Collaborative
- Flexibility
- Comfort
  - Sitting, slouching, lying down all supported; food & drink
- Technology and tools are well integrated
  - From plasma screens to staplers
- Staff support
  - Very generic, all-purpose


Small tables will get more use than large ones. Big group projects do not happen often. Instead, you usually want to study with a few friends.
Separate Large group areas from small ones. Especially in Large spaces, echoing can be a problem. Just a few dividers can help.
Keep the media lounge away from windows. You don't need windows to whatch TV.
Individual carrels don't need sunlight!
Serve coffee/snacks in the lounge area. Everyone will appreciate it and you will make lots of $.


Carrels (10)
Carrels (10)
Round Table (seats 8)
Rectangular Table (seats 8)
Media Lounge
Food Cart
-coffee
-snacks

Outcomes

- Collaborative
- Flexibility
- Comfort
- Technology and tools are well integrated
- Staff support



Outcomes

- Collaborative
- Flexibility
- Comfort
- Technology and tools are well integrated
- Staff support

Quieter Zone

Outcomes

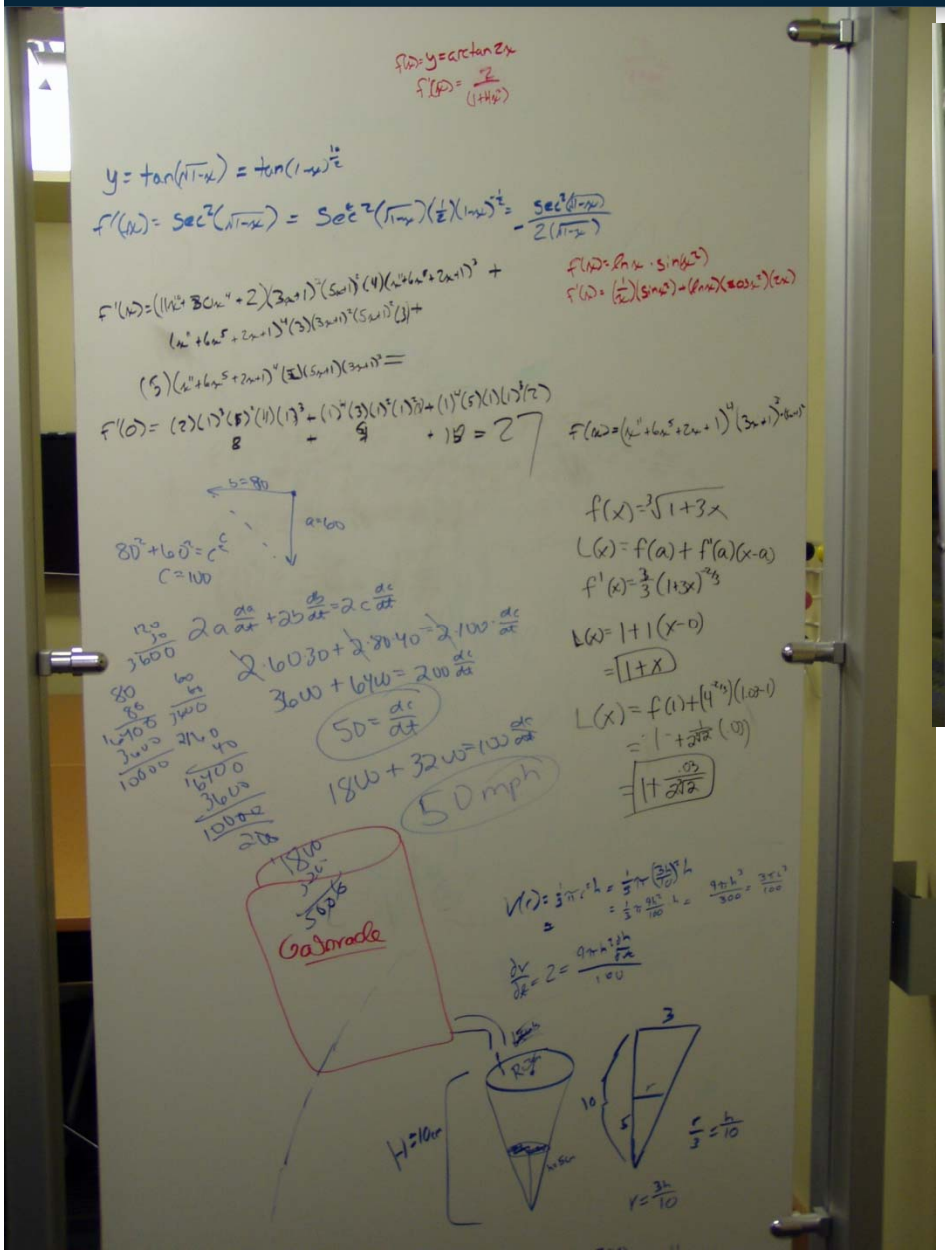
- Collaborative
- Flexibility
- Comfort
- Technology and tools are well integrated
- Staff support

Windows & light

Outcomes

- Collaborative
- Flexibility
- Comfort
- Technology and tools are well integrated
- Staff support

- **10 computer stations in three locations**
- **2 printers in two locations (wireless printing)**
- **44 carrels with power and data connections**
- **Wireless throughout**
- **In-slab power distribution**



Writing surfaces
a great success!

Outcomes

- Collaborative
- Flexibility
- Comfort
- Technology and tools are well integrated
- Staff support

Staff Support

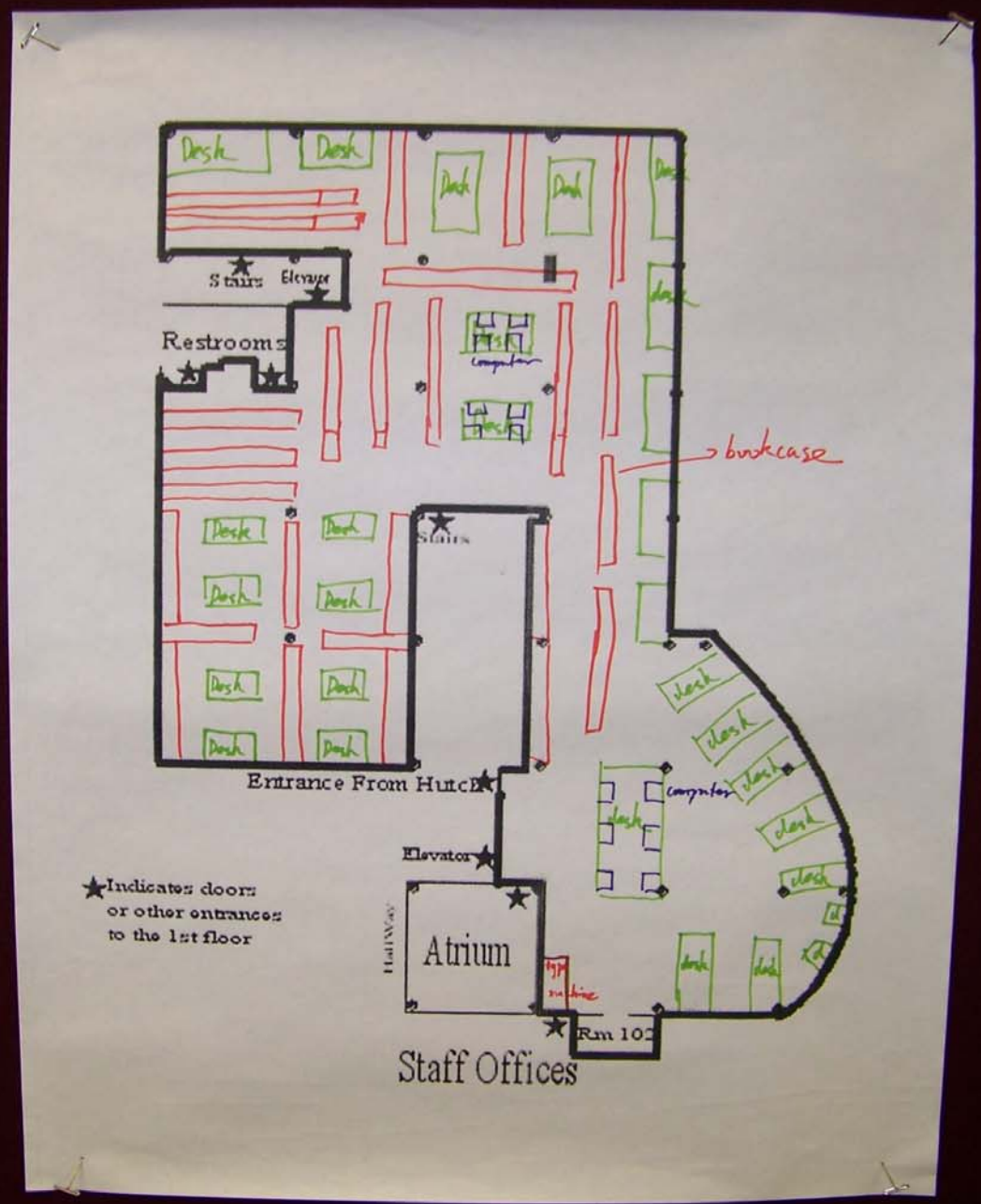
- No service desks in space
- Library staff drop into space as needed

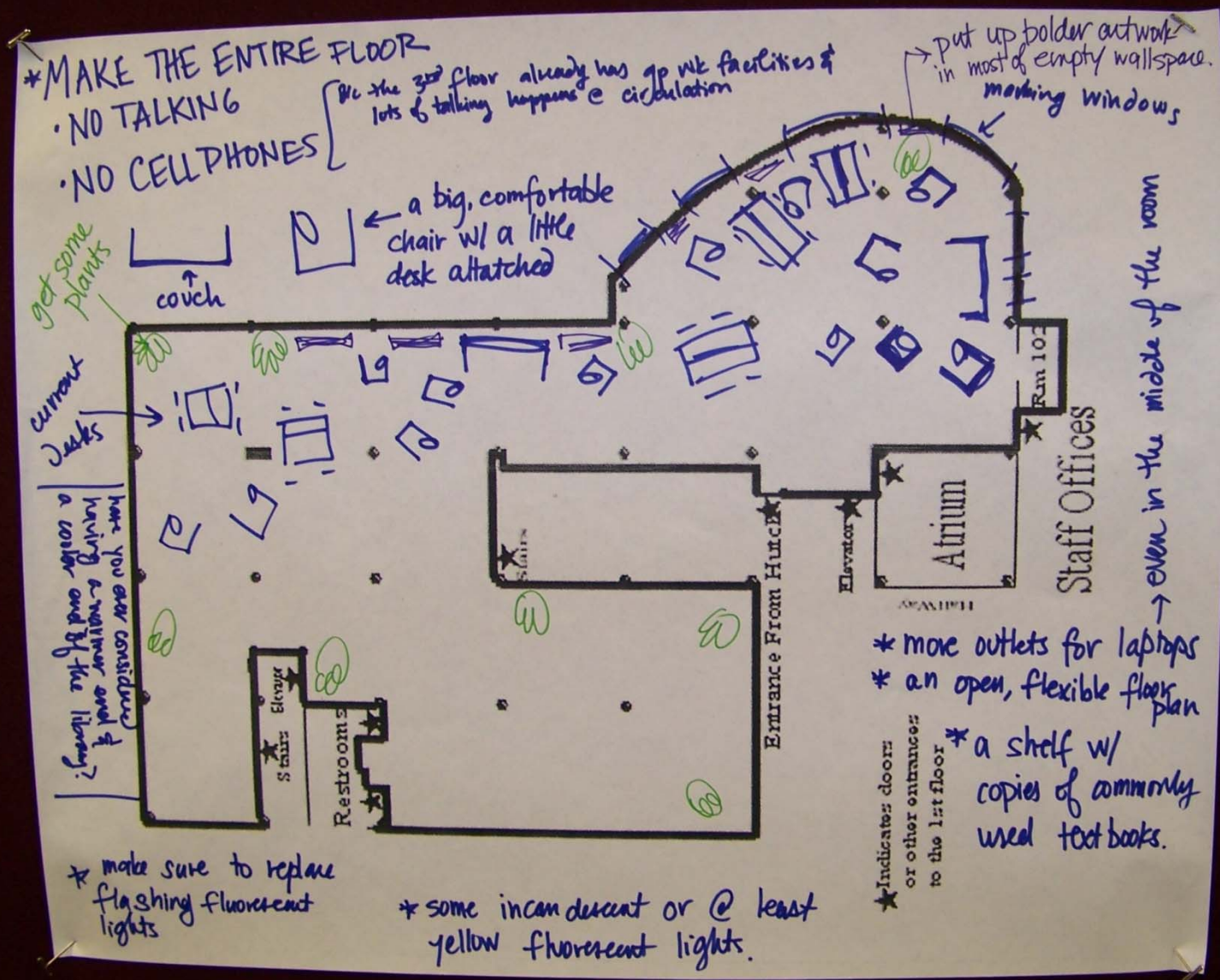
Case Study: Carlson Library

- How heavily is the space being used?
- Who is here?
- What are students doing in the space?

Methods

- Design workshops
- Reply cards
- Observations
- Walk-though interviews


Desk
Stairs
Restrooms
bookcase
Entrance From Hutch
Elevator
Indicates doors or other entrances to the 1st floor
Atrium
Rm 102
Staff Offices


*MAKE THE ENTIRE FLOOR
·NO TALKING
·NO CELLPHONES
b/c the 3rd floor already has gp wk facilities & lots of talking happens @ circulation
put up bolder artwork in most of empty wallspace.
marking windows
a big, comfortable chair w/ a little desk attatched
couch
get some plants
current desks
have you ever considered having a warmer end & a cooler end of the library?
Rm 102
Staff Offices
Atrium
Elevator
Entrance From Hutch
Stairs
Restrooms
Elevator
Stairs
even in the middle of the room
* more outlets for laptops
* an open, flexible floor plan
* a shelf w/ copies of commonly used textbooks.
★ Indicates doors or other entrances to the 1st floor
* make sure to replace flashing fluorescent lights
* some incandescent or @ least yellow fluorescent lights.

Entrance From Hutc

Elevator

Am

Staff

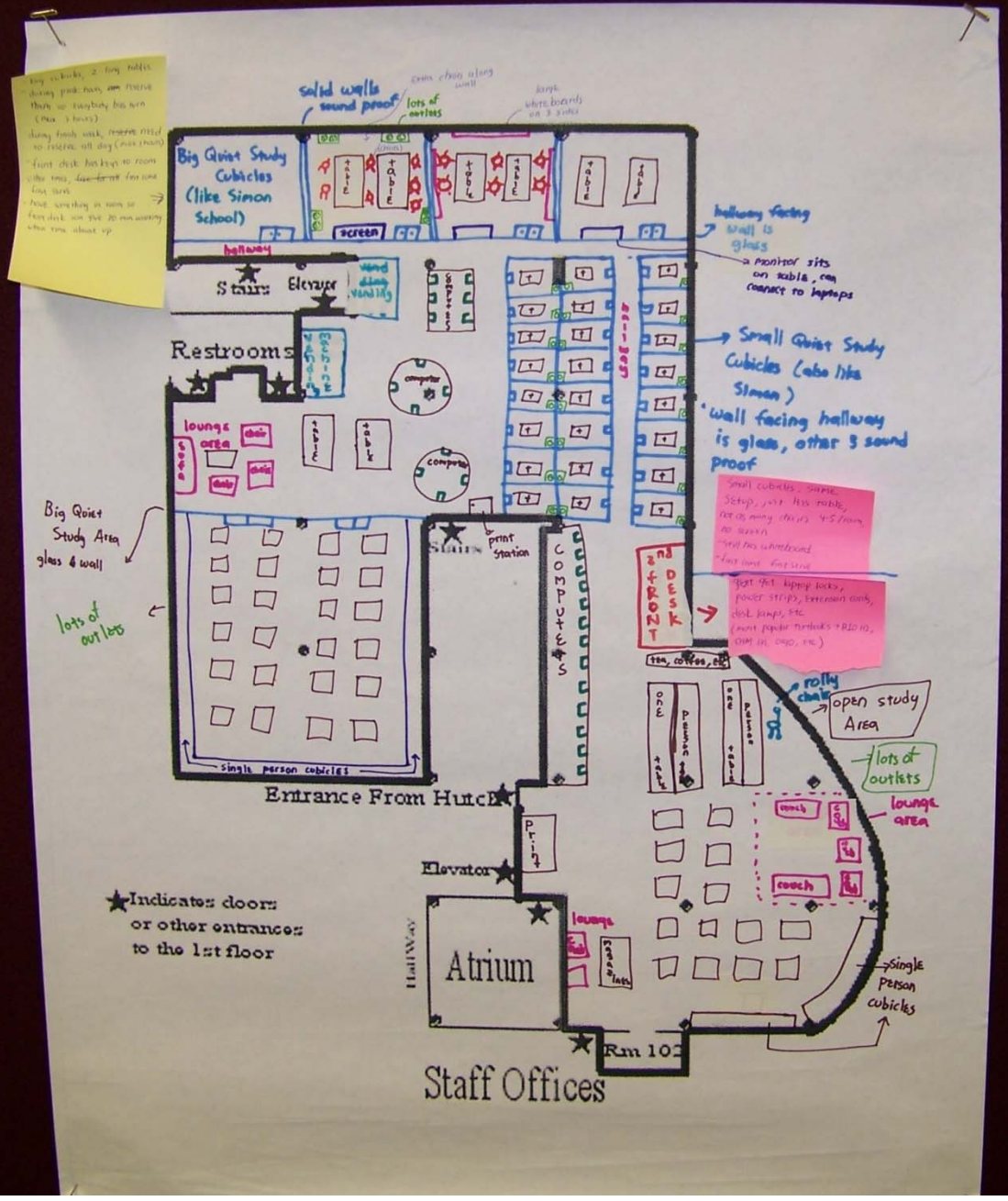
even

* move outlets for laptops
* an open, flexible floor plan
* a shelf w/ copies of commonly used textbooks.

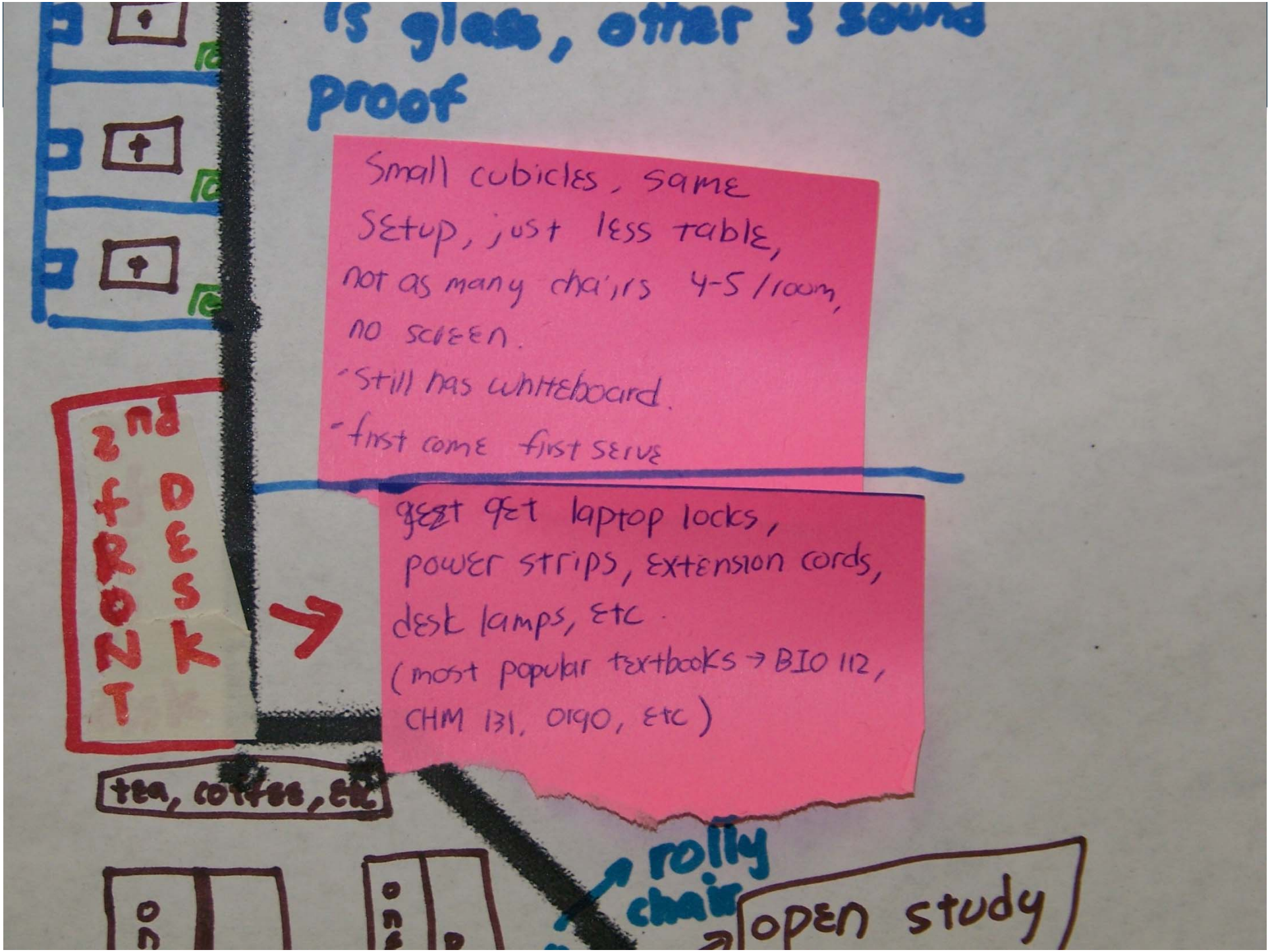
★ Indicates doors or other entrances to the 1st floor

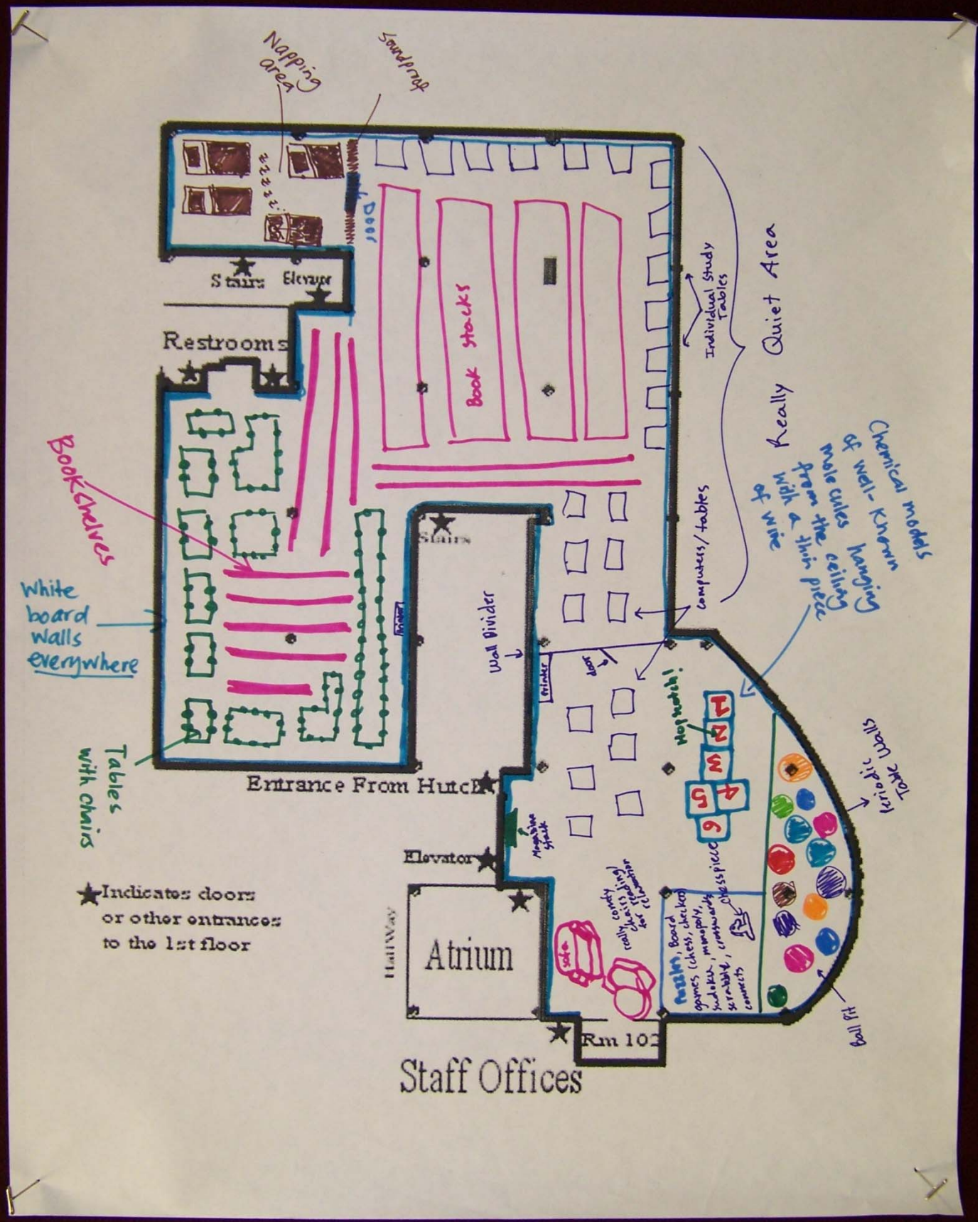
@ least

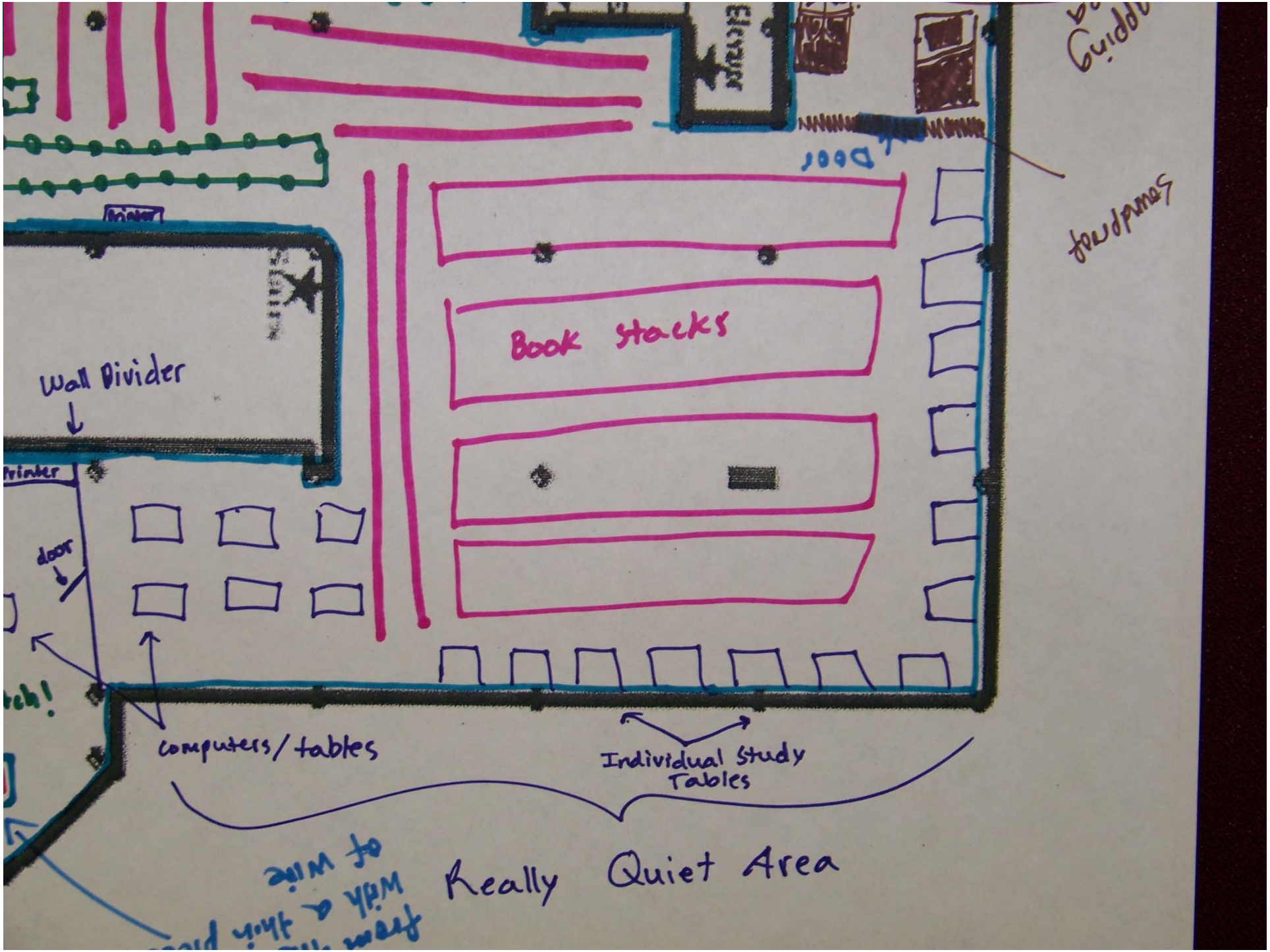
ghts.



solid walls sound proof
lots of outlets
Big Quiet Study Cubicles (like Simon School)
screen
hallway
Stairs
Elevator
Restrooms
lounge area
Big Quiet Study Area glass & wall
lots of outlets
single person cubicles
Entrance From Hutch
Stairs
print station
COMPUTERS
2nd FRONT DESK
tea, coffee, etc
hallway facing wall is glass
monitor sits on table, can connect to laptops
Small Quiet Study Cubicles (also like Simon)
wall facing hallway is glass, other 3 sound proof
rolly chair
open study Area
lots of outlets
lounge area
couch
Print
Elevator
Atrium
lounge
Rm 102
Staff Offices
Single Person cubicles
Indicates doors or other entrances to the 1st floor


is glass, other 3 sound
proof
Small cubicles, same
setup, just less table,
not as many chairs 4-5/room,
no screen.
- still has whiteboard.
- first come first serve
get laptop locks,
power strips, extension cords,
desk lamps, etc.
(most popular textbooks → BIO 112,
CHM 131, 0190, etc)
2nd FRONT DESK
tea, coffee, etc
rolly chair
open study


Napping area
Soundproof
Door
Stairs
Elevator
Restrooms
Book stacks
Individual Study Tables
Really Quiet Area
Chemical models of well-known molecules hanging from the ceiling with a thin piece of wire
Bookshelves
White board walls everywhere
Stairs
Wall Divider
computers/tables
Tables with chairs
Entrance From Hutch
Elevator
Magazine stack
Hopstatch!
Periodic Table Walls
Indicates doors or other entrances to the 1st floor
Hall Way
Atrium
Rm 102
Staff Offices
Ball Pit


Book stacks
Wall Divider
door
computers/tables
Individual Study Tables
Really Quiet Area

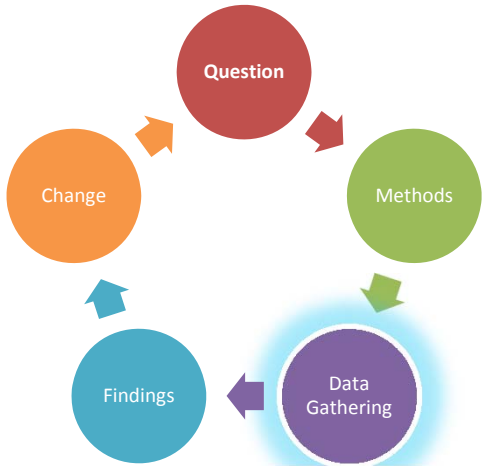
Reply Cards

100 cards collected

- What are you doing here in this seat right now?
- How long have you been here?
- Why are you here and not someplace else?
- If we made you move this minute, where would you go?
- When is the very last time you were in this seat?

Reply Cards

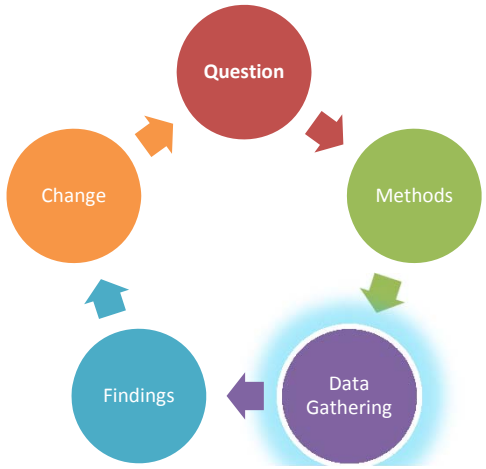
- 63 quality of space
- 14 convenience
- 9 habit
- 4 books/materials only available here
- 4 to be alone
- 4 to be with friends
- 1 to use computers
- 3 to study



Observations

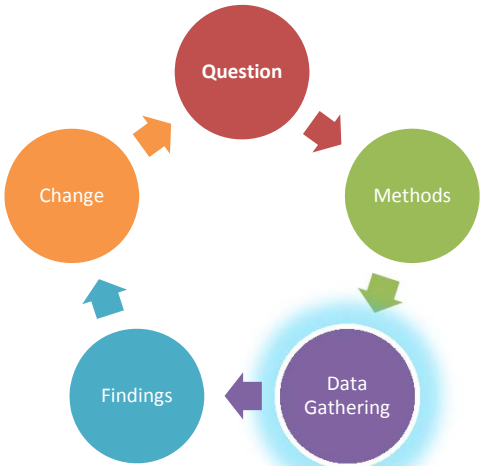
Wed	Th	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tu
202	140	90	93	168	172	115

Day	W			Th			F			Sa			Su			M			Tu		
Hr	2	6	10	2	6	10	2	6	10	2	6	10	2	6	10	2	6	10	2	6	10
#	63	57	82	52	42	46	39	29	22	37	27	29	54	58	56	62	54	56	35	30	50



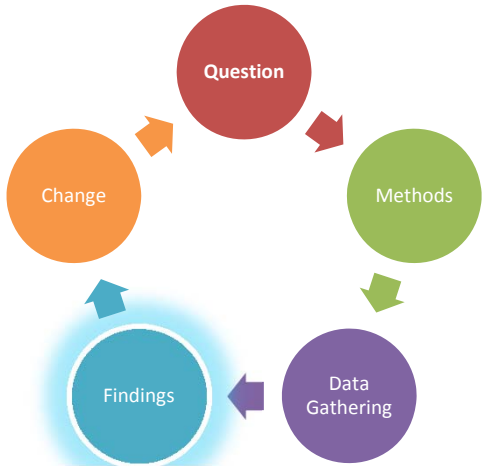
Proportion of Observed Students Doing Academic Work vs. Recreation

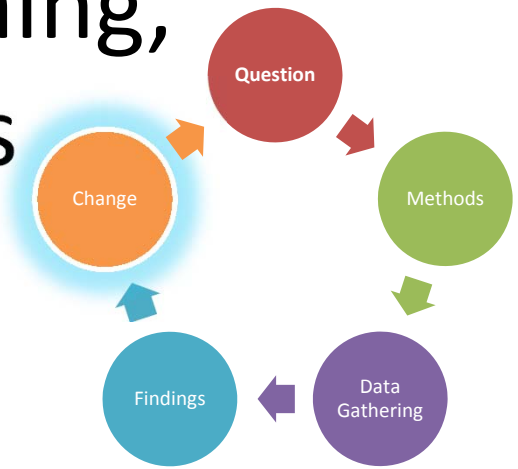
- 85% academic work
- 15% recreation



Findings

- Students want to be in a place of scholarly *gravitas*
- Provides setting, props, and people to adopt the *habitus*
- Facilitation of transition from student to scientist or engineer



Change

- Unique spaces designed for the disciplines
- Conversion of collection into people spaces
- Flexible spaces to host teaching, workshop & speaking events