Space Usage in the SLIS Laboratory Library
Kaitlin Svabek, Kayleen Jones, Madeline Tyner, Chloe Prosser, Anjali Bhasin

Why Measure Space Usage?
Libraries are transforming! Through this evaluation, we are able to identify popular spaces so eventually we can develop them to be useful and accessible to the greatest number of potential users. We wanted to examine the visibility of technology in our space, as well as analyze patterns and begin to consider reasons that patrons might be drawn to use certain spaces in the library.

What Patterns Did We Find?

Methodology
We divided the library into particular areas of use. For one week, library desk staff recorded who was using the library on a worksheet once every hour that the library was open. These space usage statistics were collected during one week in the fall and one week in the spring.

Limitations
Usage can vary quite a bit from week to week, and some areas have usage patterns which are difficult to capture on an hourly basis.

Take-Aways
- Areas with windows and natural lighting were consistently the most used
- Well-powered areas with easily accessible outlets saw highest usage rates throughout the day
- The most popular times were periods of time before and after classes, and around meal times

Looking Ahead
Since our library is embedded within a department and has space for classes, the library was busiest in the periods before classes began and after they ended. Through identifying these patterns, we have been able to suggest times for department events and plan our own events during time periods where they will have the most impact and reach the broadest audience. Additionally, this data collection process has provided us with information about library needs. By maximizing the areas with natural light, we are able to provide more usable space for patrons.