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## Library Spaces

And it would be nice if more faculty could have studies—there ought to be a more transparent and equitable method for access to studies. If all who want to have studies cannot, then there should be some sort of rotation (one faculty member now retired told me that he likes to keep his study so that he has a place to hang his coat when it's raining).

For example, in attempting to receive a Roberts study carrel, I was once told by a staff "We serve the U of T students first, you will have to wait until later." While I am a member of TST (Toronto School of Theology), I am also a U of T student, pay U of T student fees, and have a U of T student card.

Branch: Engineering & Computer Science Library  
The environment is great, hoping I can stay a little bit longer here.

Library (Graham) E.J. Pratt, students were eating fried food in every study booth, despite signs telling them not to eat. I did not feel I could ask the staff to do anything about it. They should be monitoring without prompting. I had to leave the library, it smelled gross!

Branch: UTSC Library (U of T, Scarborough)  
The library space could be quieter which is of course due to the high volume of usage.

Branch: UTM Library (U of T, Mississauga)  
It's quite good, but it needs a lot more quiet study space, during peak times (exams/test periods) it's practically impossible to find quiet zone work stations. More enforcement of quiet-zone would be appreciated as well. There continues to be a problem of noise bleed from communal areas.

As an undergraduate I have rarely needed to use library resources for research. I mostly use the libraries on campus as a place to study (maybe about 4 times a week), and in that regard I think they are mostly satisfactory.

Branch: UTSC Library (U of T, Scarborough)  
More quiet space and people who understand or guide you on how to reference or guide you to the right materials for essays

Strongly felt that our libraries need to provide more group study space.  
University works is solely individual work but at the same time, discussion seems quite necessary.

Newer desks and more private/enclosed individual study area at Gerstein library would be nice.

However, the noise level in that library is atrocious. The stacks are constantly populated by groups of students sitting together doing more talking than studying, and it makes the notion of studying there extremely undesirable. Again, I use this library because my discipline requires me to use this collection, but I often end up sitting in the middle of a row of books to study because the tabled study areas are so unpleasant to be in if I need quiet. This library would benefit HUGELY from more attention being paid to keeping the study areas quiet for the students who go there to study, not socialize. I spend a huge amount of time at the library once the first month of the semester has passed and it is a constant annoyance to have to police my peers myself to get the quiet atmosphere I need to finish my work

In Robart's I feel often lost and very secluded from the outside world. It is almost a scary place. The Munk library has a completely different atmosphere: people like working between the books and spending time here.

I wish there were more step stools around for short persons.

Excellent library service. Extended library hours on Fridays and Saturdays are recommended.

Squirrels roaming in the vents at OISE library need to be taken care of.  
OISE library needs to fix the broken electrical outlets and update study space on the 3rd floor (chairs hurt my back)

The Kelly Library is great in providing both quiet space and group work space and places where you can eat while you work, but the design and finishings (carpets, walls, windows, etc.) are old and ugly.

Branch: Gerstein Science Information Centre  
longer library hours throughout the year would be very helpful! Perhaps up until midnight.

The Food Court is terrible!

Laidlaw Library at UC is a MUCH friendlier physical environment for reading and other coursework

I am concerned about air quality within the library, especially on the 14th floor, and about the adequacy of the elevators. I think that the 14th-floor classrooms should have more than one elevator (and an unreliable one, at that) for rapid exit from the floor. This would especially be true in the case of a medical emergency.

robarts map library staff are particularly helpful but all staff have provided helpful experiences. Returned to U of T after many years and found the library services very much improved. Small things like the location of books (shown on the catalogue and street names on the stacks) simple but useful devices. Thanks

Branch: Inforum (Faculty of Information)  
I wish the inforum was used less often as a general meeting space for presentations etc. Also we need our print collections. The rumour that we should get rid of print collections is RIDICULOUS!

Group study spaces get filled exceedingly quickly (Robarts, EJ Pratt)  
Quiet individual study spaces also become packed  
Library hours should be longer/libraries should open earlier

Branch: Robarts Library  
I really come to the library for complete quiet, so that I can get my reading done because its too noisy at home.....very often others in the library do not respect the need for quiet and have conversations that go on and on.....it's very frustrating.

Robarts Library needs to be more comfortable and a better learning environment for ALL types of learners and students. Its not inviting and I hate going there to study. I would like it to be warmer, less "concrete" and sad. Its feels like your in a somber concrete basement on all floors. There should also be floors with regular and constant tutors for help whether by appointment or drop in.

I go to Pratt most often, because I have had negative experiences at Robarts. I find Robarts to be very cold, impersonal, and crowded, which I do not find conducive to my learning. Pratt, however, is a very positive learning environment for me.

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Designated study spaces in which graduate students receive priority in booking would be nice, as I tend to avoid the libraries during specific times of the year when I know space is at a premium due to the high demand of undergraduates seeking study spaces.

but physical deterioration of Robarts Library is noticeable, also use of computers for downloading of inappropriate material continues at Robarts.

The majority of my experience with the U of T library services comes from working in Robarts. While I find many of the staff reflexively charmless in their interactions with students, and the peak hours of student-library activity challenging to negotiate re: study space/computer usage, I'm mostly happy with the services on offer and the library's generous hours.

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At the UTSC library, the students make a lot of persistent and annoying noise, in the Quiet Room. Everytime I am there someone is always eating. The chairs in the library are very uncomfortable. No one knows how to sit still. Someone is always moving. The walls around each desk should be taller and come out more so that you cannot even see people sitting next to you. When you roll into your cubicle/desk your whole self should be hidden except for your back. I find the air in the library much too stuffy. I feel like I cannot breath in there sometimes. There should be a room in the library strictly for people to go and eat. The windows in the library are much too small. I find the library too small. I wish it was much more spacious and comfortable and less of an intense, crowded, irritating and sociable place to be.

I wish there was more seating available at Robarts for studying and doing work. Everytime I go I spend about 15-20 minutes trying to find a quiet place to work..other than that, my experience there is pretty good overall.

Using the Robards library on Saturday is a little intimidating as the upper floors are deserted and you feel quite vulnerable.

Branch: Knox College Library

I have problems walking stairs and there are no alternative modes of access to the Library. That is my only problem.

I have virtually no complaints about the library and probably spend 250/365 days a year in Robarts for some amount of time, BUT, it should be open later in the summer! Given that courses are taught on campus from May-August, I don't understand why not one library offers 24-hour service (maybe not Robarts, because its huge and likely costly to

run), but a 24-hour space in the summer would be appreciated.

Branch: Robarts Library

I find in general that I am very satisfied with available resources, but there is lots of room for improvement in making the space itself and the atmosphere one conducive to enjoyable use.

Branch: Robarts Library

- 1) some chairs/tables need to be replaced
- 2) upgrade the washroom equipments
- 3) put more green stuff and plants inside the building

It is a glum setting however and mildly depressing to those who are in there much I would think. A grey fortress!!

I love the redesign of Robarts' upper-floor study spaces. Much more inviting.

Controlled quiet learning areas is second, which can usually be found. The 2 areas I would like to see improvement: more attention to appealing work areas (good chairs, rooms with windows) and dedicated group work areas where teams can collaborate in a closed environment (such as new Rotman work rooms). Also 'casual' open study areas where some quiet talk is permitted are very useful.

So three tiers of study space, designated as: individual(quiet) - casual (some talk) - team (enclosed vocal environment).

Branch: Law Library (Bora Laskin)

Not enough study carrels during exam time

Branch: Robarts Library

need more group study areas

During term there are not enough quiet study spaces, usually because people don't get that quiet study means don't talk or even whisper to anyone any time.

In general I am very satisfied with the library services U of T provides for me. It's holdings are generally very good (though broader online journal coverage for the Classics would be welcome) and I am SO grateful for my carrel.

In terms of its appearance and ambience, the OISE library is an uninviting, outdated space in an ugly, outdated building. This creates a bias against the materials and services in the library

I am an OISE student but I usually go to the Graham library to study because the studying atmosphere is much more comfortable, with large, well-lit carrels, cozy chairs, fireplaces and windows. All of these features make it a very pleasant place to work for long periods of time.

The OISE library is a pretty dismal place to sit for a long stretch of time, and the study space could use some updating.

I am most dissatisfied with the space, in particular at Robarts (still relatively poor lighting, no workplaces for faculty, food smell permeating the whole building, no enforcement of silence, and so on) and the state the books themselves are in.

The hours of the OISE library are absolutely ridiculous! How can you use the printers for class when the library only opens at 8:30 (when classes begin) and closes at 5 on Fridays (when classes end)

The environment at Laidlaw is extremely calming too. The lighting is good.

The Library atmosphere is great but I would prefer if there was an easier way to locate different libraries on campus

Living in London, Ontario, I do not get to the Toronto library as often as I like. However, when in Toronto, I spend a great deal of time at the Kelly Library. The need for more private work stations is needed; these would be helpful on the third floor.

I just wish all libraries were open 24 hours.

There are insufficient computers to accommodate student demand. An additional **quiet** computer lab for long-term work sessions (5-6 hours) would be beneficial so that the computers in the Scotiabank commons could be used for short-term use.

Robarts is also very dark and uninviting, it is almost like a prison, an uncomfortable experience when trying to do school work.

Gerstein has exemplary study areas with views of trees and grass, and a calming atmosphere, however, there are rarely enough seats.

Also, there are too few study rooms for independent study and presentation preparation. These types of rooms are incredibly important especially with the emphasis on presentations in many classes. It is already very difficult to arrange with a group for a mutually convenient time to work together without having to accommodate for the study room schedules. This is the single most important goal for the libraries, to increase independent and group study rooms.

The space in Robarts library doesn't feel safe at times.

I often find a disconnect between the librarians' encounter at the Inforum with those at various other libraries on campus - specifically Robarts. I have been a graduate student for many years (having completed a Masters and a PhD) and I rarely find myself disliking a library experience, sadly any encounters I have in Robarts are negative. The staff is unfriendly and completely unhelpful and the atmosphere is generally not a positive one.

However, other libraries on campus more than meet my expectations - I always enjoy visiting the Science Library or Trinity college. The study spaces are warm and inviting and I believe are conducive to learning and teaching.

I really like Graham library, I find it warm and welcoming, comfortable and easy to study

The UTM library is beautiful. I rather study there than anywhere else on campus. However, during midterm time, especially midday, there is absolutely no study spaces available. There have been many times where I've sat on the floor, joining a lot of others doing the same. I know space is limited but studying on the floor is not ideal. I think the study rooms are a great idea and I have put them to much use.

The Robarts library is well stocked, but more information about what is where through sessions and more spaces where you can sit and have group meetings without being disturbed would encourage me to visit more often.

Gerstain has too few restrooms.

Libraries (and just campus in general) need more group work/study spaces that are away from the quiet zones in libraries so that students can talk and do group work. Additionally, there should be more enforcing of quiet areas in libraries, especially in the Robarts stacks and reading rooms.

The space really is important. The Regis library is well-lit but too noisy;

the Kelly library is quiet, but dim lighting and chemically smelling carpet;

Robarts also has dim lighting and it's annoying to have to go up so many floors.

I am retired, and visit the library buildings (Pratt and Robarts mostly) less often than I did, but I use the electronic resources of the library virtually every day and am deeply grateful for both. The Fisher provides admirable service likewise, in one of the most splendid reading rooms in the world. Keep on your present course!

(1) The stacks are very noisy and are not enjoyable places to read, write, or do research. Consequently I stay at the library as little as possible.

Although as a study space, UTSC was severely lacking for quite some time, the implementation of Quiet Library Monitors has made a great deal of improvement in this area, although it is still not ideal. I do not blame the library for this deficit, and more so the student culture that developed - but I am happy to see progress being made in this area, and I am hopeful that with continuous quiet policy enforcement, habit and student culture will change for the better.

Robarts especially, with study spaces in the upper levels at the stacks, excels in this respect, and I have nothing but praise to offer them.

In all other respects, I find UTSC library staff exceptional, always helpful and patient, and I am encouraged by their responsiveness to students in helping making the library progressively better, despite the resistance they face (for example, from the building's open concept, which itself seems to amplify conversation, and the student's natural response to subconsciously feel that loud conversation is appropriate as a result). For the record, I feel that they are making all the right choices to improve this problem.

As a final comment: I would love to see the addition of a new, second library at the Scarborough Campus, as it is continuously growing. I would suggest a more closed concept, however, ideally with separated floors, to encourage a quieter study space, and a more library-like atmosphere.

Spaces at Robarts need to be improved,

utm is loud in silence study, makes it hard to study or concentrate.