Title: The Media Center: Functions and Organization of a Collaboration Based Library

Author: Stacy King

Faculty Sponsor: Dawn Haynie, Professor, Department of Interior Design

The program and needs of the modern library have changed from an archetypal building, as a vast open space filled with rows of books and study carrels, to a complex place for communities to work in groups and access various technologies (Gyure, 2008). My research investigates this transition and the types of workspaces and organizational structures needed in a collaborative-based library. Methodologically, a representative sample comprised of 5 case studies, ranging between 3,000 square feet to 220,000 square feet, was studied. I recorded what tasks were performed in the library as well as the square footage for each task. For example, the Vittra School in Sodermalm, Sweden has two group study rooms at 472 square feet each, accounting for 942 of the 9,674 total square footage. By recording these square footages, I was able to find mean square footages of similar tasks. These average square footages provided me a rough program of a media center, which is then revised to include best practices for collaborative learning (Cays, 2013) (Lazmanrao, Shyamkant, 2013). In summary, this study showed that tasks performed in these libraries varied from large group lecture and discussion to individual study. Because these different tasks require different environments, media centers should host a wide variety of spaces to accommodate these needs and be flexible in their transition between tasks. From this research, a prototypical program for a multi-media center is proposed for those looking to design a modern library for a new generation of users.

