

## **EAHIL 2010 (Lisbon, Portugal, June 14-18, 2010) Abstract**

**Title:** Following the Paths of Library Users in Redesigning Library Spaces

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**Purpose and Setting:** The Medical Sciences Library (MSL) at Texas A&M University, like many of its colleague libraries, has begun redesigning and renovating library spaces. As electronic resources replace print collections, the collection-centric model of libraries is being replaced by the user-centered, user-experience model. MSL has been expanding its sources for user feedback and input into these space renovation decisions.

**Objective:** To harvest regular user feedback and develop a broad based complement of mechanisms for input concerning the redesign of library spaces. To analyze and then act upon this feedback in creating the future of MSL library space.

**Methods/Process:**

User feedback gathered for space decisions came from a variety of sources: the library suggestion box; furniture trials to gather direct user opinion on replacement furniture choices; annual LibQUAL+® questionnaire and public opinion board opportunities to suggest alternatives for the library first floor space redesign. In fall 2009, a Student Advisory Council was established to bring student leaders together as a focus group and sounding board for library space decisions under consideration.

**Outcomes/Conclusions:** Comments from the annual LibQUAL+® survey made clear the importance of the library as a place to undergraduate, graduate and professional students. In response to this and the changing model of libraries, a new position of onsite services librarian was created in 2007. In summer 2008 an MSL staff group was convened to help coordinate space redesign efforts. Targeted feedback led to specific changes in library spaces. This paper will highlight some of those space redesign efforts.