

Student Perceptions of Peer Institutions' Study Space Webpages

Study conducted on 11th and 18th of April, 2023 by the TTU Library UX Unit



35 students participated in this study.



Participants completed a short survey and a brief interview in return for water and a snack.

Overall, the students preferred short, bulleted descriptions and filters but didn't like overly nuanced features to filter by.

Initial question:
What do TTU students like in study space photos, descriptions, and filters on other universities' websites?

- Users preferred images of whole spaces.
- Users preferred checkboxes for filtering options.
- Users generally agreed that they should be able to filter by noise level and group size/room capacity.
- Users preferred noise levels filters with more than one level to choose from; however, existing categories were too ambiguous across the different websites.

As a result of testing, we recommended the following guidelines for our study space webpage(s):

- Use photos of whole spaces, not tightly cropped nor "selectively framed" photos.
- Use bulleted lists instead of paragraphs to list room features.
- Include more specific locations on room and space descriptions: abbreviations such as "S" (for Stacks) were noted as too vague.
- Use checkboxes to sort spaces instead of other filter interfaces. But test to ensure that no combination of filters creates a "no results found" situation.
- Include expected noise level as a feature to filter by.

Bottom line:
Students showed a clear preference for photos of whole spaces and bulleted descriptions.

We want library patrons to use all of the available spaces to study. Given how many different types of study space we have throughout the buildings, we want to design a new study space webpage to include all types and not just reservable study rooms.