MEDICAL LIBRARY DESIGN AND PLANNING

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SESSION OUTLINE

- Presentation (25 min)
  - Context
  - Future site
  - Planning and programming
  - Needs assessment
  - Surveys, standards, professional publications
  - Selected guiding principles

- Group activity (20 min)

- Feedback (20 min)

- Take home message (10 min)
CONTEXT: AN EXPANDING CAMPUS

- A university hospital: 1’400 beds, 9’000 FTE
- Research facilities
- Faculty of medicine administration
- 1’100 medical students: 2nd years
- Educational facilities: lecture halls, library, lab rooms

2017: new lecture halls
2018: cancer research center
2022: children’s hospital
MOVING FROM A GROUND FLOOR TO THE CLIFFS!
FUTURE SITE

Easy accessibility
- Proximity with main public transport
- Closer to the faculty’s auditoriums
- 7/7, 14/24 – opening hours extension under discussion

Central location
- Opposite the university hospital and future infrastructures
- Remains well embedded in hospital complex

Integrated activities and open spaces
- Shared facilities: library, practical lab rooms, student organisation office
- Library staff’s workspace: open space

A future landmark?
- Good visibility of the library entrance with neon signs
- New building overlooking the lake and mountains: an inspirational place!
VIEW FROM THE NEW LIBRARY TOP FLOOR
PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING

**Analyse**
- 2000m² on 3 floors, 3 large open spaces
- Few inner walls and windows but light wells

**Implement**
- Team management: architects, engineers, designers, planners, stakeholders
- Time management for different stages: construction, tenders, delivery

**Assess**
- Quantify and measure: user areas, collections, activities, services, staff
- Anticipate changes

**Check**
- Library standards, guidelines, toolkits: ISO, ALA Libguides, OCLC Webjunction
- National and/or local rules for Security, Disability Access, Office ergonomics

**Engage**
- Patron input, user behaviors observation, expectations survey
- Literature review, visits and benchmarking
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantitative needs</th>
<th>Present Surface m²</th>
<th>Capacity (seats)</th>
<th>% total surface</th>
<th>Requested m²</th>
<th>Granted m²</th>
<th>Capacity (seats)</th>
<th>% total surface</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Study places, incl. study carrels</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>42 %</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>62 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group study rooms</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>10 %</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training room</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3.5 %</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2.2 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing facilities</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1.5 %</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer room / area</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1.7 %</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.6 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library service main desk</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2 %</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.1 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library service secondary desk(s)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.6 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book open stacks</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>330 lm</td>
<td>5.5 %</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>223 lm</td>
<td>3 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compact shelving</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>900 lm</td>
<td>6 %</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>600 lm</td>
<td>3 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periodicals display (latest issues)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20 lm</td>
<td>0.8 %</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20 lm</td>
<td>0.6 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multimedia collection</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.7 %</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.6 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal zones</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td>6 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refreshment area</td>
<td>Main cafeteria</td>
<td>outside</td>
<td>outside</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circulation areas : corridors, steps</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11 %</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>54</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff workspace and lounge</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11 %</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1'130</td>
<td>271</td>
<td></td>
<td>1'440</td>
<td>1'470</td>
<td>355</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Space for user places
- Standard-type desk should be minimum 120 cm in breadth and 80 cm in depth
- Axis centre distance between tables is 175 cm

Shelf depth
- Books (standard size) : 25-30 cm
- Periodicals (unbound iss., latest iss. on slanting shelves, other lying behind) : 30-45 cm
- CD, CD-ROM, DVD (standing) : 20-25 cm

Shelf length and aisle width
- Basic unit : 0.90 – 1m
- Length of shelving ranges in open access area : 3-7m
- Closed stacks, compact storage : 5-8m
- Shelf frame height: max 2.25m
- Stack aisle width : 1.20 to 1.50m
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table size</th>
<th>Group work for final exams preparation</th>
<th>No need for informal areas and seats</th>
<th>Library collections underused</th>
<th>Use personal mobile devices and notebooks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acoustics</td>
<td>Mainly skills practice for physical examination</td>
<td>No time to relax !</td>
<td>E-journals not required E-books invisible</td>
<td>Need electrical outlets and good WIFI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighting</td>
<td>Feeling of privacy in a public space</td>
<td>Medical studies: an individual learning process ?</td>
<td>Need coffee !</td>
<td>Mainly handouts and notes on the tables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing machines</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THEORETICAL PRINCIPLES
HTTPS://WWW.LIBERQUARTERLY.EU/ARTICLES/10.18352/LQ.7840/
SELECTED GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Standardised individual study tables (80x100cm) set in rows
- Chairs with casters
- Clip-on side panels (140cm) for modular study carrels
- Adjustable tables
- Informal areas, high tables, bar stools, soft seating but no bean bags or sofas
- Integration: electrical outlets on each table, but very few fixed desktop computers
- Mobile App for room booking system
- Smart cards for access to specific areas and at peak times
- AV monitors, and... whiteboards, paperboards
- Cloud based printing system and scanning facilities
- RFID: book security system and occupancy rates monitoring
- Decoration simplicity, soft colours, natural elements
- Coffee corner, water fountains
- More work spaces, reduced storage space
- Focus on training activities: literature search skills and lab rooms
GROUP STUDY ROOMS
GROUP ACTIVITY

1 – Assign one or more floors to each zone
  ▪ Can you think of any additional zone? On which floor(s) would you set it?
  ▪ Approx. 10’

2 – Choose a floor plan and draw the previously assigned zones according to the color code
  ▪ Discuss about the main specificities of your floor (noise level, types of furniture, atmosphere)
  ▪ Optional: select some furniture items from the provided pieces and add them to your plan
  ▪ Approx. 10’

3 – Group presentation
  ▪ Approx. 20’
ZONES

Library service main desk
  • Library service secondary desk(s)

Study places
  • Study carrels

Printing facilities

Computer area

Book collection (open stacks)

Periodicals display (latest issues)

Multimedia collection

Refreshment area

Informal area (soft seating)

Periodical closed stacks

Group study rooms

Training room

Lab rooms

Lab lockers and changing rooms

Student organisation

Restrooms

Staff office

Scale : 1/70
TAKE HOME MESSAGE

Find the right balance while dealing with technical, economical and architectural constraints
- Call for tenders VS final choices
- Architect’s perspective VS stakeholders’ perspective
- Flexibility VS organisational limitations

FROM DESIGN TO SPACE OCCUPATION...  
... TO POST-OCCUPANCY ASSESSMENT
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

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