The library as fourth place

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The great good place

• Published 1999
• First place
  • Home
• Second place
  • Work
• Third place
  • Social and community
Libraries as third places

- On neutral ground ✓
- Acts as a leveller ✓
- Conversation main activity ❌
- Accessible and accommodating ✓
- Has regulars ✓
- Low profile ❌
- Playful mood❓
- Home away from home ✓
Libraries as fourth places

• Architecture
• Location
• Locality
• Conversation
• Sustenance
• Community
• Story
• For writers and artists
How does this help?

• Advocacy
• Programming
• Planning
• Collection development
• Evaluations
• User surveys
• Benchmarking
Libraries as fourth places

Library Land rating

Library: ______________________
Date of visit: ____________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parking/Transportation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wifi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting rooms</td>
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<td>Cleanliness</td>
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<td>Completeness</td>
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<td>Community</td>
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<td>Friendliness</td>
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<td>Restroom</td>
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<td>Noise</td>
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<td>Comfort level</td>
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<td>Good place to work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall rating</td>
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</table>

Source: https://www.librarylandproject.com/

SLQ Creative Spaces Framework

Library: ______________________
Date of visit: ____________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accessing resources</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Idea building</td>
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<td>Civic engagement</td>
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<td>Community development</td>
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<td>Cultural participation</td>
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<td>Health and wellbeing</td>
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<td>Educational attainment</td>
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<td>Economic productivity</td>
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Final thought

It celebrates both the tradition of exhibition visiting – of looking, talking and sharing – and that of the library, of reading, touching, thinking, writing and creating. We hope that you will find inspiration in the combination of these two very common (but usually separate) cultural spaces and indulge your curiosity in multiple ways. (Arnold & Chaplin, 2014)
Credits

Library images
• Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art Library, Helsinki, Finland
• Port Adelaide Library, Adelaide, Australia
• Portico Library, Manchester, UK
• Footscray Mechanics’ Institute, Footscray, Australia
• The Reading Room, Wellcome Library, London, UK
  • All photos © Catherine E Kerrigan

Library ratings
• Library Land Project
  • https://www.librarylandproject.com/
• State Library of Queensland

References