

DATA-INFORMED DECISIONS IN THE LIBRARY

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Using data to create and analyze an
argument and to make evidence-based decisions

Background

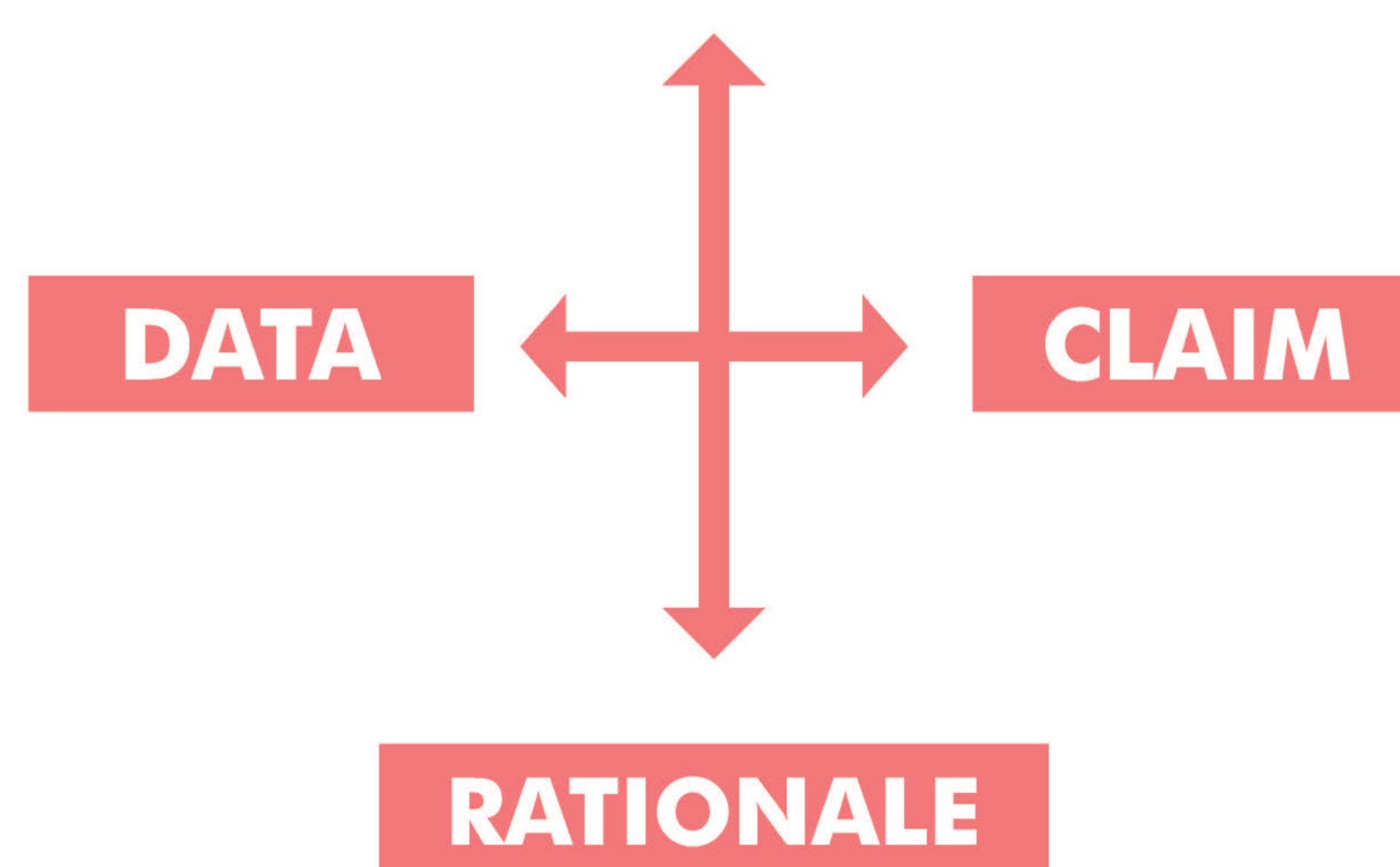
VCUarts Qatar consists of the Main Library which is on the ground floor, the Materials Library and the Innovative Media Lab on the first floor, and the Writing Center on the second floor. In 2014, due to the lack of available space within the building, the administration developed an expansion plan that included a campus-wide space reconfiguration. This plan negatively affected the Library. A space consultancy agency was hired by the university to determine the space needs of the institution and to make recommendations.

As a result of being excluded from the space related surveys, the Library decided to conduct its own space study and present it to the administration. The space consultancy agency asked additional questions concerning the Library's print collection and the space study that was prepared beforehand helped to highlight the Library's space constraints. The challenging step for the Library was to highlight the idea that the Library was envisioned as separate spaces for different services and to justify the demand for an effective user engagement space as well as private space. The Library used qualitative and quantitative data to recommend changes to be made to the existing physical space in the library and presented a data driven visual argument.

An evidence-based decision is a process, not a product



The Process



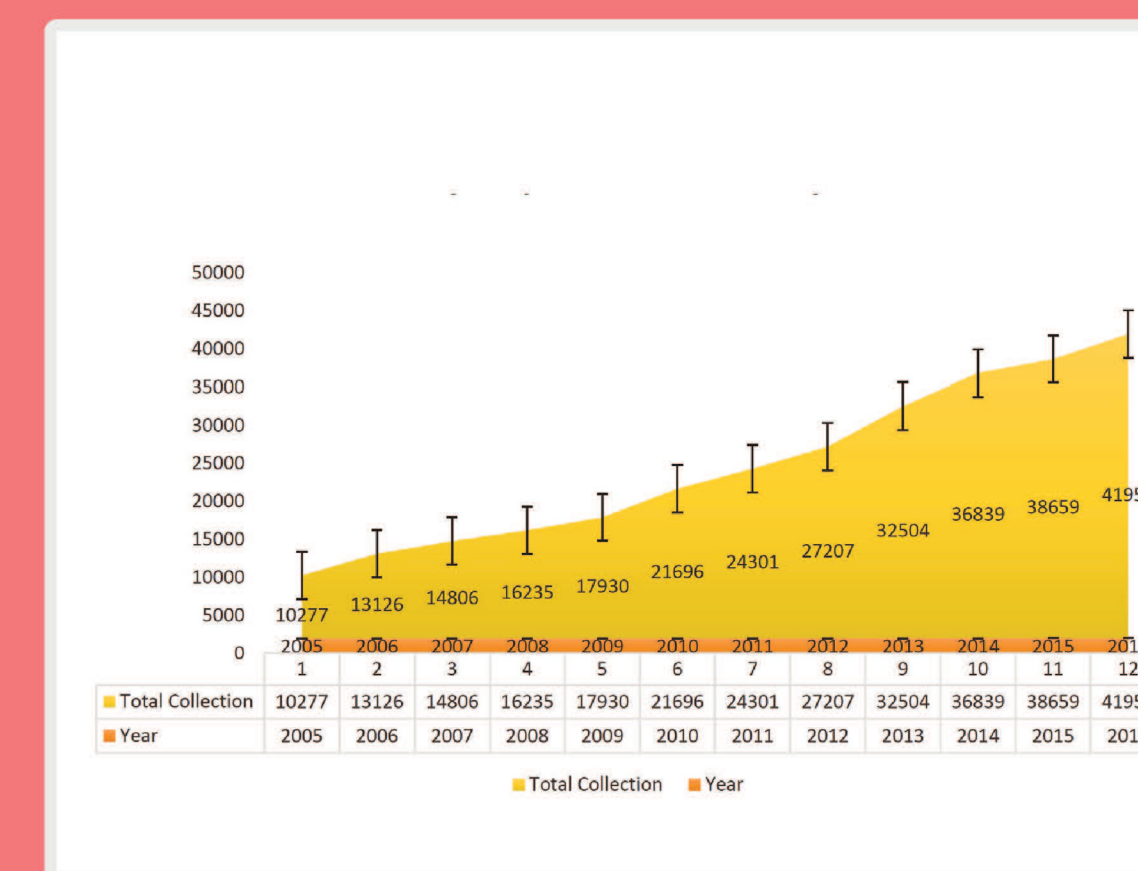
1- ACTION - Collected Data

MAIN LIBRARY

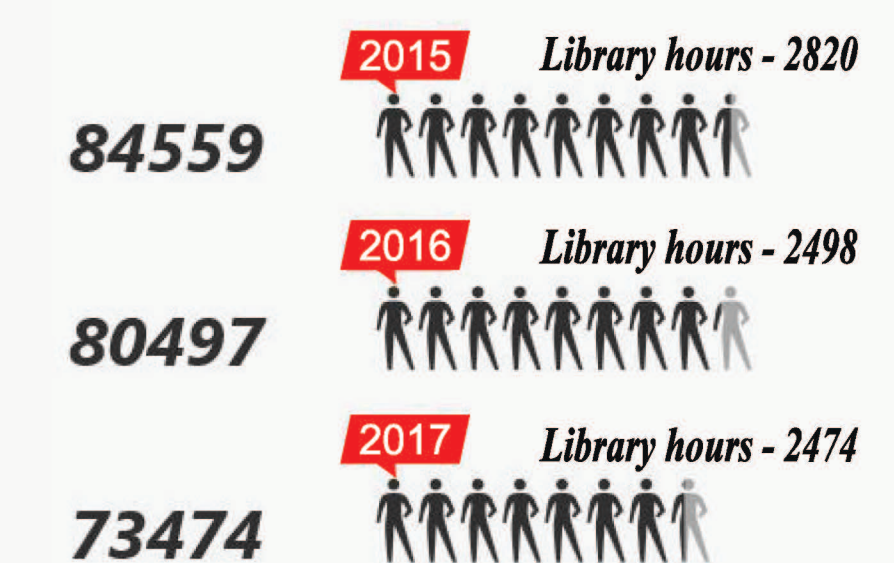


Number of students enrolled as of fall, 2016	- 363
Total number of student seats available	- 85
Enrollment per seat	- 4.27
Study space	- 79.6 sq.m
Special Collection & Archives	- 73.6 sq.m
Administrative office space	- 124.9 sq.m
Office space used by non-library staff	- 25 sq.m

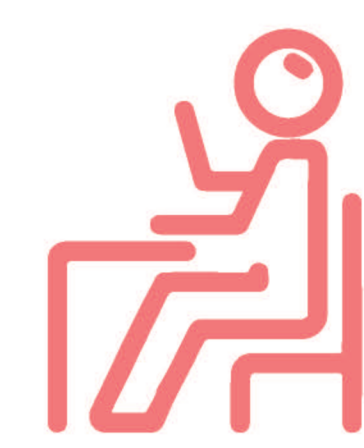
ANNUAL COLLECTION GROWTH



NUMBER OF VISITORS IN THE MAIN LIBRARY



Total no. of student seats	85
Study rooms (7 rooms x 4 chairs)	28
Computers	17
Individual carrels	26
Table (2x4 chairs)	08
Soft seating	06

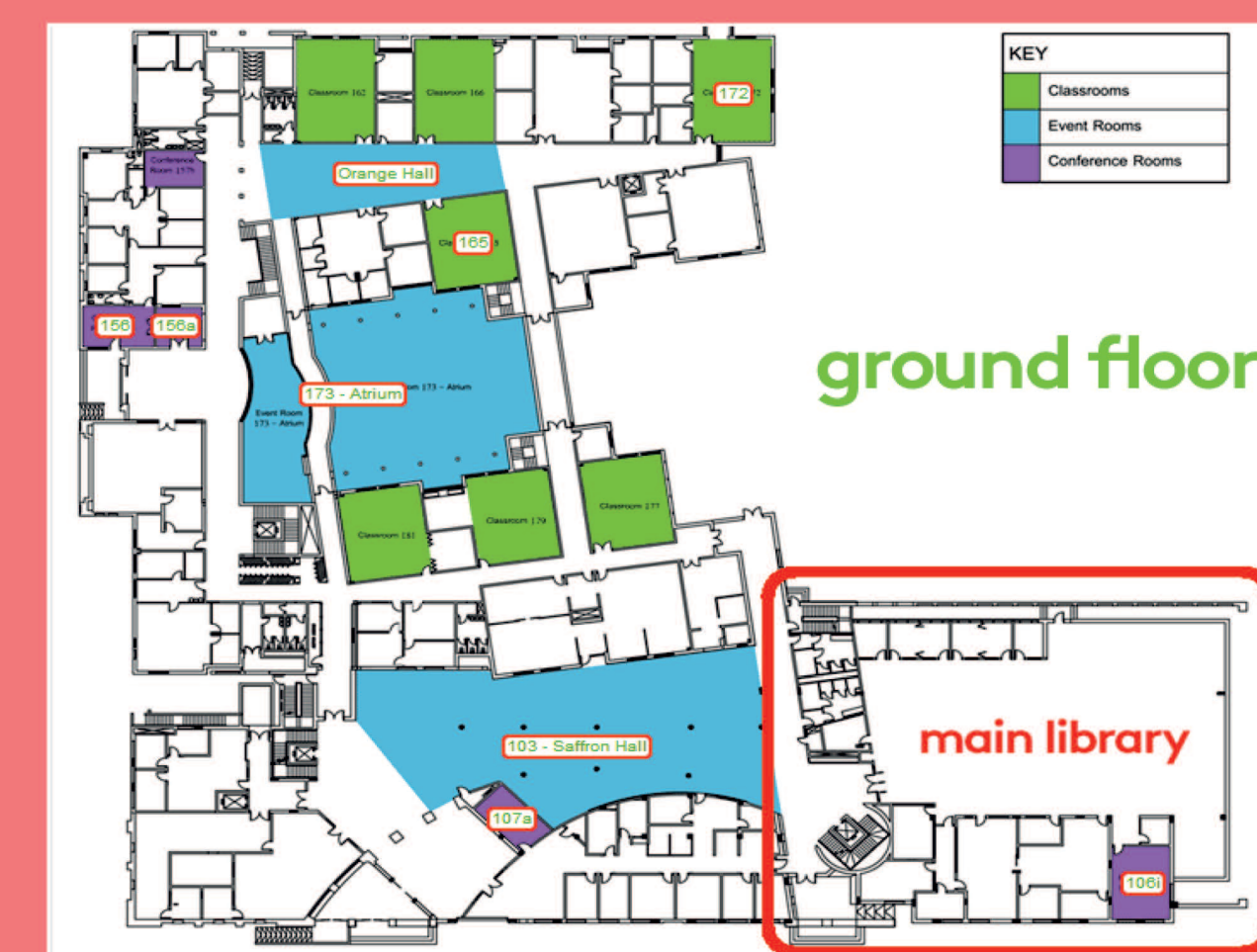


STUDENT STUDY SPACE

2- ACTION-

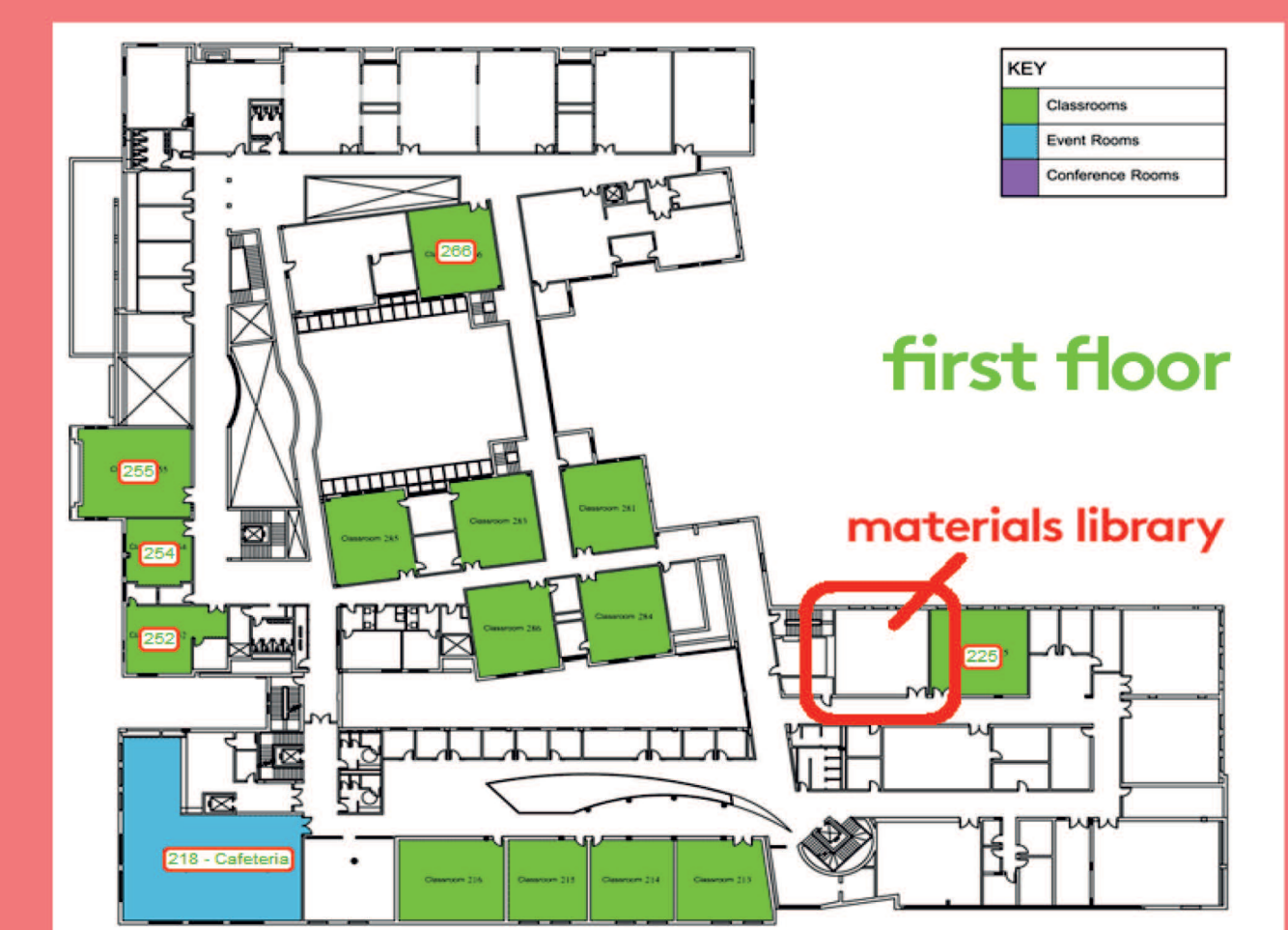
Linked research findings to the
existing design to outline the challenges

MAIN LIBRARY



Collection, Study & Office
seating and Storage
744.5 sqm

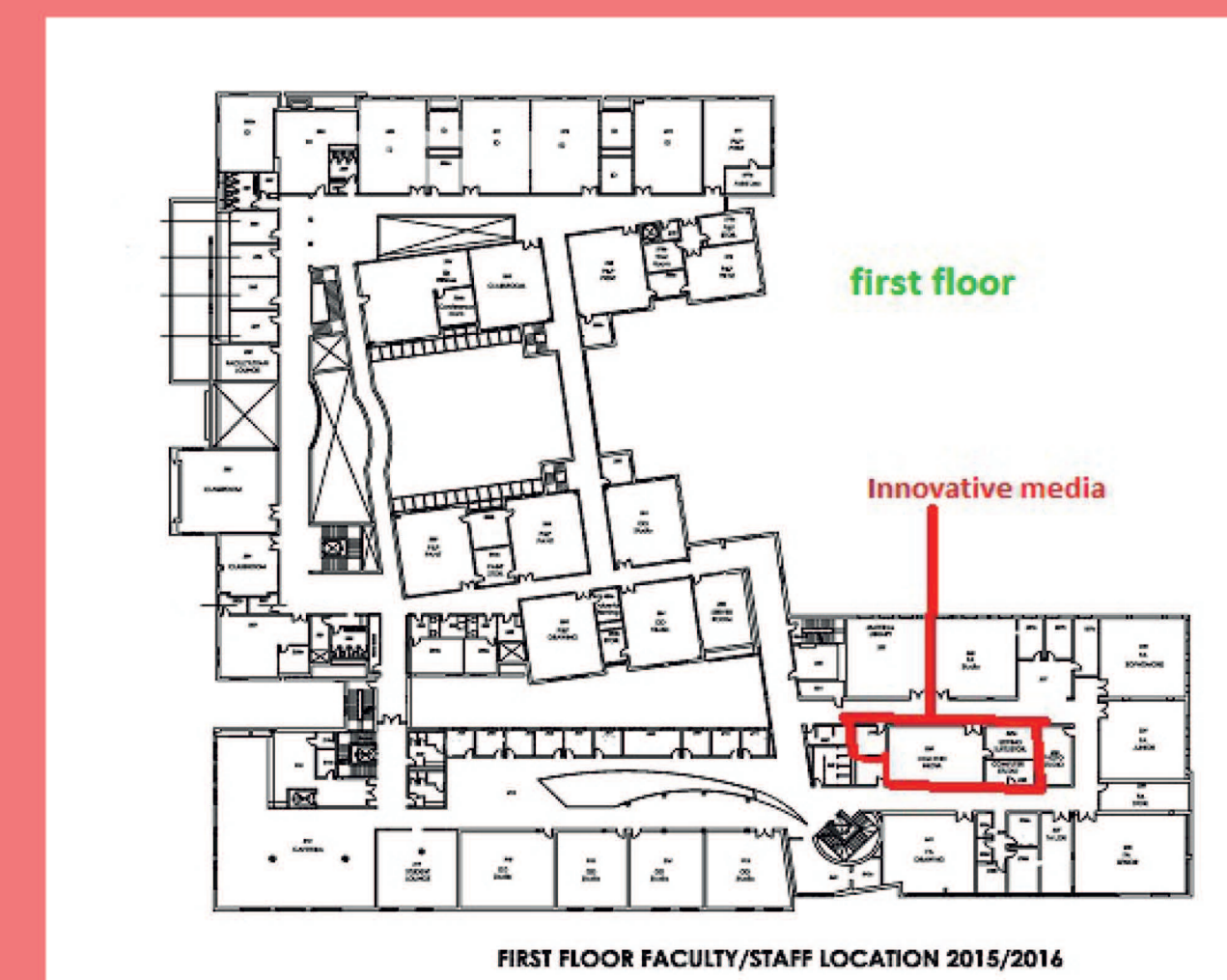
MATERIALS LIBRARY



Collection, Student consultation
& Administrative space and
Storage
92.9 sqm

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT SPACE OVERVIEW

INNOVATIVE MEDIA LAB



Media Lab, Post Production, Editing Suit,
Photo Studio and Equipment storage and
Administrative space
130.16 sqm

WRITING CENTER



Administrative and Student
consultation space
37.25 sqm

3- ACTION -

Conducted user satisfaction surveys

67 RESPONSES ★★★★★★
Main Library
55 RESPONSES ★★★★★★
Materials Library
22 RESPONSES ★★★
Writing Center
N/A
Innovative Media

4- ACTION -

Appointed a graphic designer to present
the visual argument that utilized the right
images to represent the data and
enhanced with text in order to provide an
overview of the proposal.

5- ACTION -

Produced a powerful digital and print profile of the library
spaces and submitted to the space consultation agency for
recommendations.

RESULT

- Data analysis helped to identify the library's specific space needs and development plans, and provided a strong argument to the claim for more space.
- The space consultation agency recognized the need for a centralized location for the Materials Library and made recommendations.
- The space profile created as part of the project helped to justify investment in long-term improvements and to make adjustments in temporary spaces to increase their effectiveness.
- Data raised additional questions and helped to identify opportunities for further study.