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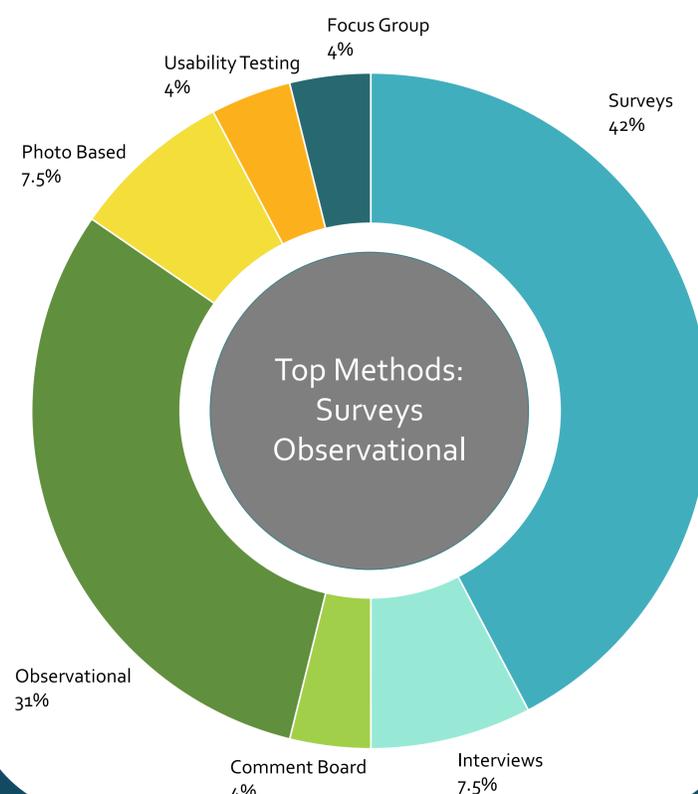
Context

- Assessment in libraries- relatively new field, drawing upon assessment methods from a variety of other disciplines
- Space assessment as a venue for accessing the needs and habits of patrons related to space use, rather than use of collections or services
- Space as a service? Move towards intentional learning and collaboration spaces
- Often conducted prior to making improvements or renovations to specific spaces in a building
- Context in an academic library- primary stakeholders are students
- Mixed-methods here is defined as using a variety of qualitative or quantitative assessment methods
- Related topics, participatory design and service design- models for thinking about space assessment, broader framework for planning

Research Trends

- Foster & Gibbons 2007 *Studying Students*
 - Anthropological approach
 - Basic question, “how do students write a research paper?”
 - Addressed this question partially through spatial methods
 - Student-designed library spaces, rather than contractor designed
 - New book available, *A Second Look*, but less use of spatial methods
- Fox & Doshi 2013 “Longitudinal Assessment...”
 - Quantitative data collection
 - Focus on collaborative spaces
 - Implement findings through furniture, hardware upgrades
 - Unexpected conclusions, new renovations ‘steal’ students from other areas of the library
- Montgomery 2014, “User Learning Behaviors...”
 - Iterative process- repeated use of similar instrument
 - Focus on library as an informal learning space
 - “Before and after” model of assessment
 - Assessed students perceptions and feelings about the space

Common Space Assessment Methods



Next Steps

- Develop, pilot and implement an instrument to survey students’ perceptions of existing services and expectations for spaces in the University Library
- Future directions for this research include looking beyond methods to analyze the current and developing theories of space assessment research to better contextualize individual findings
- “Schools of thought” for space assessment, apparent focus on enhancing student learning, but what other philosophies are implemented

Best Practices

- Researchers benefit from the use of multiple methods for this type of assessment
- Assessment as an ongoing process- continue to reflect and evaluate
- Pilot your instrument vigorously first
- Recruitment methods for participants are important considerations
- Of the studies reviewed, surveys were by far the most common method employed
- This type of research be used to plan for specific environmental concerns or more general perceptions of space
- For observational studies, think critically about the questions you include. Are certain assumptions necessary for your data? Age, gender, ethnicity, etc.

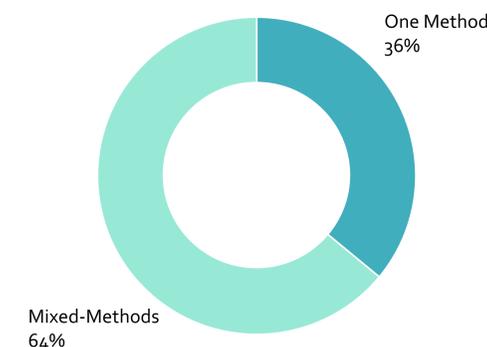
References

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Multiple Methods?



Acknowledgements

I would like to extend thanks to Jen-Chien Yu for her unwavering support in my practicum experience, Sara Holder for welcoming me to contribute to an ongoing initiative, Emily Knox for her willingness to sponsor my research, and JoAnn Jacoby for her initial support of this endeavor.