



Students use one of the Library's 13 group study rooms.

Following Renovation, Library Use Soars

When we know something's going to be really, *really* good, we'll wait in line for it.

Roller coaster rides. The opening night of a movie. A table at a great restaurant. A bargain-basement blowout sale.

But, study rooms? At the library?

Study rooms, indeed, says Ronelle Thompson, director of Augustana's Mikkelsen Library.

Following Mikkelsen's \$7 million renovation, Thompson's team has seen student usage of the library and library resources increase by 50 percent. The Library's 13 group study rooms are among the highest in demand.

"The group study rooms are first-come, first-serve," Thompson said. "On any given Sunday, we'll find students waiting outside for the Library doors to open in order to reserve a study room for their group. Students can connect a laptop to a large-screen monitor to study and create presentations or assignments."

"I really like to use the group study rooms when I'm doing a group project. Every member of the group can read and type at the same time. It really keeps the flow going," said junior Jaci Mowinkel.

The Library is open more than 90 hours per week and is staffed by professional Library personnel until midnight Monday through Friday.

The ability to access a trained librarian during the evenings is something students, and the public, find appealing, particularly for research-related projects.

"Websites like Wikipedia and Google are great for finding quick facts yet the most reputable and trusted information and research comes from publications, books, journals and scientific papers," Thompson said. "At the Library, we purchase these and make them available to users on- and off-campus. Users can access these types of resources in our facility and online via our website with a library-granted pass code."

Thompson said approximately 10 percent of the Library's users are from outside the Augustana campus community, including alumni, teachers and people working toward degrees from other institutions.

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