

## 'Protolib II' – Executive Summary

The Protolib II project was conducted in order to supplement the findings of the first Protolib project, which examined study space provision at the University of Cambridge through prototyping distinct types of library environments (<http://bit.ly/protolibreport>). The aim of the Protolib II project was to find out what spaces might be needed at each of the three main University sites: the Sidgwick site, the West Cambridge site and the less distinct but identifiable site in the Cambridge city centre.

### Methodology

- A digital diary study was conducted with 41 participants across various colleges and disciplines. Participants' diary entries, along with geo-spatial data, were used to build a picture of where and when different working activities were being conducted, in and outside of University spaces.
- In-depth interviews were conducted with participants at the end of the study, in order to further explore their needs, habits, routines and behaviours. The interviews were semi-structured, with a focus on participants' working routines and schedules, as well as where they conducted different working tasks.
- An 'intensity analysis' was conducted of existing library spaces at the University. This used the intensity gradient framework arrived at during the first Protolib project to evaluate current study space provision in Cambridge.
- Observations were conducted in library spaces, along with interviews with users of those spaces, which fed into suggestions for design.

### Key Findings

- There are three distinct mind-sets which students apply to their course; these inform when, where and how they choose to study.
- There are five key factors that influence an individual's studying behaviour.
- The location of a person's college and department has an impact on their study needs and behaviours.
- People vary the locations and environments they study in, using a number of spaces at different times to support their working activities.
- Individuals have different approaches to the 'working week' and this has a direct impact on their needs and behaviours.
- High intensity workspaces are still important, as part of a network of low, medium and high intensity spaces.

### Recommendations

- Study space provision at the University should be re-evaluated, with an emphasis on providing more medium and low intensity workspaces. Suggestions for how this could be achieved, based on the findings of the original Protolib project and this more recent research, are outlined in the full Protolib II project report.
- Consideration should be given to local context; the existing needs, behaviours and activities of the users of a University site should inform space design and provision.
- Design suggestions for entrance areas and landing zones can be found in the full Protolib II project report.

The full Protolib II report can be found here: <http://bit.ly/protolib2>