

## Library Lab Proposal: Interactive Carrel Seating Application

A brief description: We would like to create a database that would allow patrons to apply online in real-time for carrels. Using Widener/Pusey carrels as an example, patrons would be able to:

- View a library's carrel layout in relation to subject areas in the stacks where applicable
- Assess which carrels have slots available (carrels can be assigned up to 4 users)
- Assess the length of the waitlist for carrels they are interested in that are full
- Choose their carrel in real time, much the same way as one can choose a seat on a train or airplane
- Choose to have their email/contact information sent to other occupants of the carrel to facilitate coordinating use times of the desk.
- Automatically be sent a confirmation including online access to appropriate documentation and codes for the accompanying locker.

The driver: The creation of an automated carrel system such as this would allow patrons to view and choose the carrel they want based on availability. Currently, when applying patrons request a certain carrel, floor, etc. without knowing what's available and then are disappointed when they don't get what they've requested. Additionally, a database would cut down staff time spent negotiating back and forth with carrel holders and attempting to find adequate placement. Much like choosing a seat on an airplane, the patron is presented with a visible process and is better informed when making decisions.

This would also have a small metrics component, as we'll want to be able to easily report how many carrels are currently in use, patron affiliation, etc . . .

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