

**It's 10pm.**

**Do you know what's  
happening in the library?**

**An Exploration of Hourly Library Usage Data**



SUNYLA Midwinter | February 3, 2023



## Presenters and Our Library



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Director, User Services  
and Resource Sharing



**James Spring**  
Manager, Library  
Services Unit



**McKeldin Library**  
Main Library  
University of Maryland,  
College Park



## Why We Undertook this Project

Confluence of events:

- COVID-19 pandemic
- Lost 3 vacant positions to new priorities/budget cuts
- Shrinking L&A budget
- Rising minimum wage (\$11 to \$15 in ~~5 years~~ 3 years)



## Data Collected and Data Sources

- Gate count Traffic and Occupancy (Sensource)
- Circulation data from our ILS (Aleph)
- Questions asked at 1st floor service point (Springshare)



## Challenges and Limitations

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- Question data is manual entry - likely under reported and includes Chat data
- Routine schedules could influence circ data (book drops, pull times for books)
- Occupancy must be zeroed out daily
- Some tasks do not generate data or data is not easily available to library staff



# Applying the Data

What We've Done To Date and Moving Forward



## Days McKeldin Library is Closed

### Previously

Open ~331 days per year

Closed ~34 days for:

- UMD Employee Holidays
- Intersession weekends

### Now

Open ~323 days per year

Closed 8 additional days:

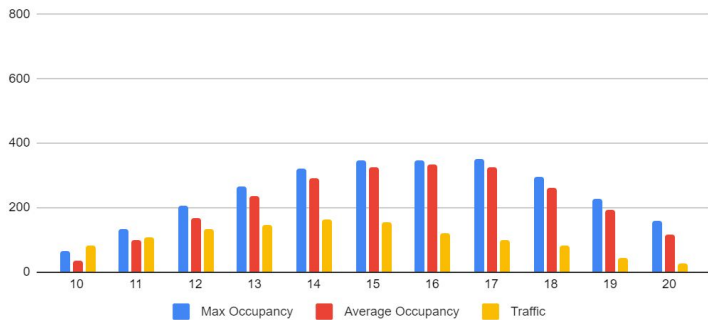
- Saturday after Thanksgiving
- Wednesday–Friday of Spring Break
- 2 weekends during Winter Term

## Average Fall Saturday

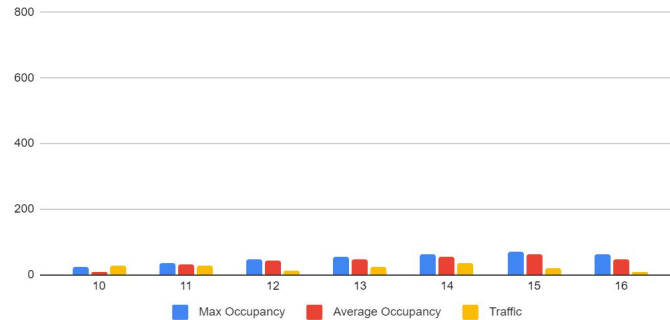
vs.

## Saturday After Thanksgiving

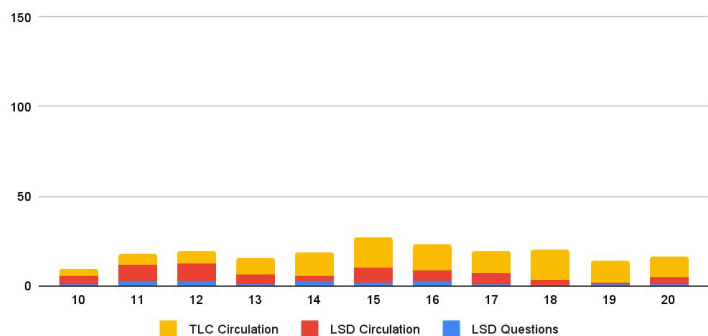
Average Saturday Space Usage: Fall 2021



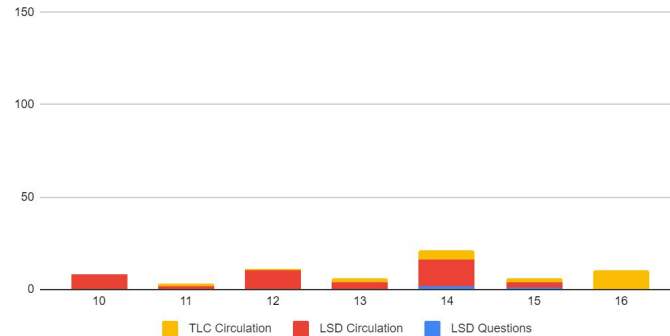
Space Usage on Saturday, 11/27/21



Average Saturday Activity: Fall 2021



Activity on Saturday, 11/27/21



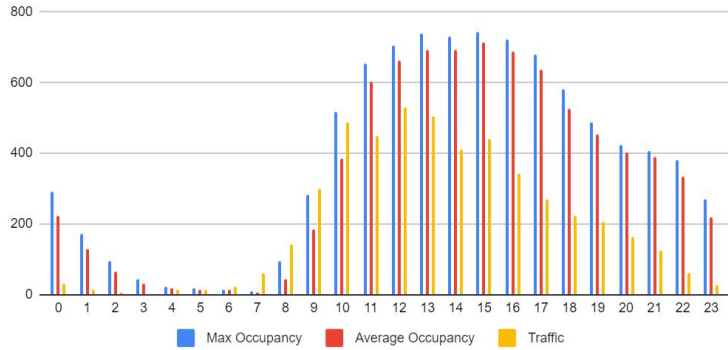
Look at the drop!



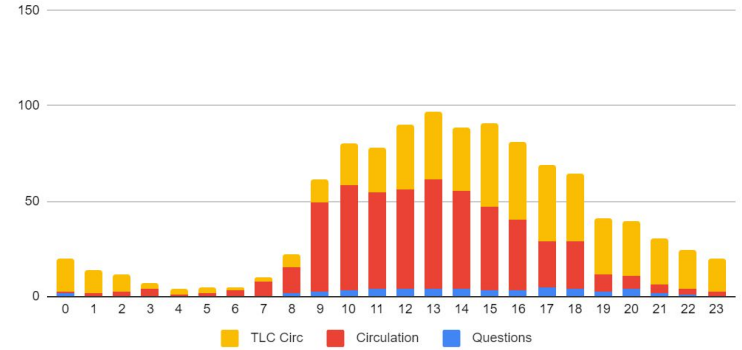


# Average Usage and Activity for Fall and Spring Weekday Hours

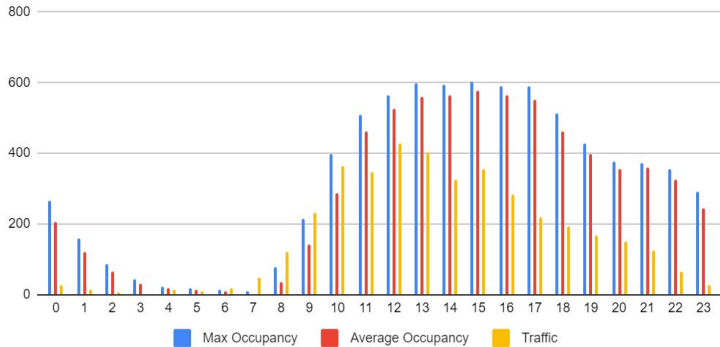
Average Weekday Space Usage: Fall 2021



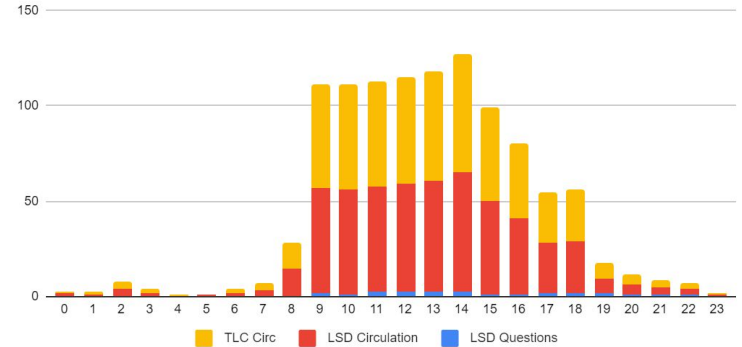
Average Weekday Activity: Fall 2021



Average Weekday Usage: Spring 2022



Average Weekday Activity: Spring 2022



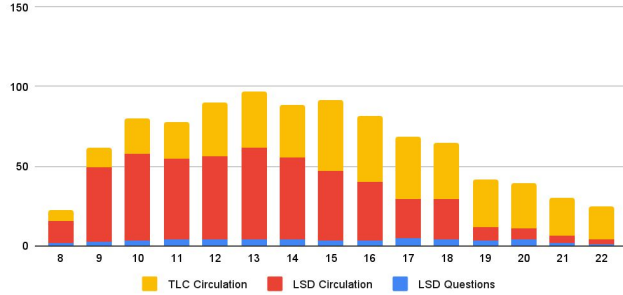
# Service Point Activity Levels

vs.

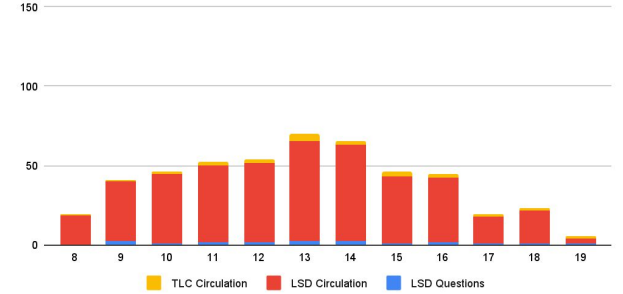
## Fall and Spring

## Winter and Summer

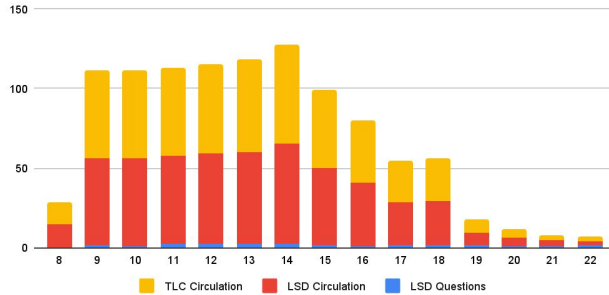
Average Weekday Activity: Fall 2021



Average Weekday Activity: Winter 2022

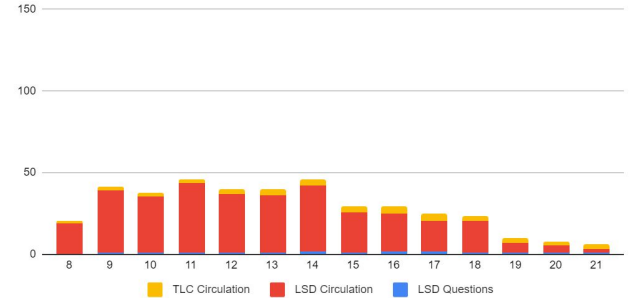


Average Weekday Activity: Spring 2022



Where did all the yellow go?

Average Weekday Activity: Summer 2022





## Moving Forward...

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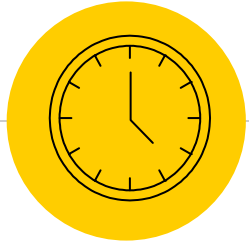
- ◉ Continue to collect data and adapt
- ◉ Reach out to more partners
- ◉ Deep dives into proposed changes
- ◉ Target other data analysis



## Suggestions for others

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- Contextualize!
- Collaborate!
- Document!
- Perfection is the enemy of good!



# Thanks!

## *Any questions ?*

You can contact us at:

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