

Building a better un-bunker

Library as Place; Place as Library TCD
25th February 2016

Hugh Murphy
@hughtweet



New Library Extension

- On the agenda for 14 year +
- Significant development from 4,000 – 10,000 sq. m
- Seating and shelving increased greatly
- Enormous challenge to meet the needs of a wide variety of stakeholders at every stage
- Research vital
- Expert-led (?)
- Amazing opportunity for success OR.....

€20 million or €20...

Principles are the same

Lessons we learned can be applied for anyone in
almost any context..

What is our role?

1. Shift in emphasis from storing and archiving resources to supporting the production of knowledge
2. Changes in how students are taught at third level..... learning by doing and creating and engaging in problem solving
3. Evolution in the way students interact with the world around them requires an evolution in the buildings and services we provide



Learning has changed



Collections

- Prepare for death of print?
- Prepare staff for death of print?!
- Increasing importance of 'UDCs'
- Ensure access to electronic

Technology

- Facilitate Electronic Access
- Digital footfall
- Wi-Fi
- Mobile
- Beacon technology





Research & Pedagogy

- Dedicated areas
- Training rooms
- Flexibility
- Groups
- Technology as teacher
- Use space to help teach

*Everybody knows what libraries need,
the problem is getting it done?*

Flexible space Noise zones

Choice of seating

Design Principles Bingo

Easy circulation

Different learning styles

Flexible spaces

Environmental

POWER



Students' needs

From this:

To this:



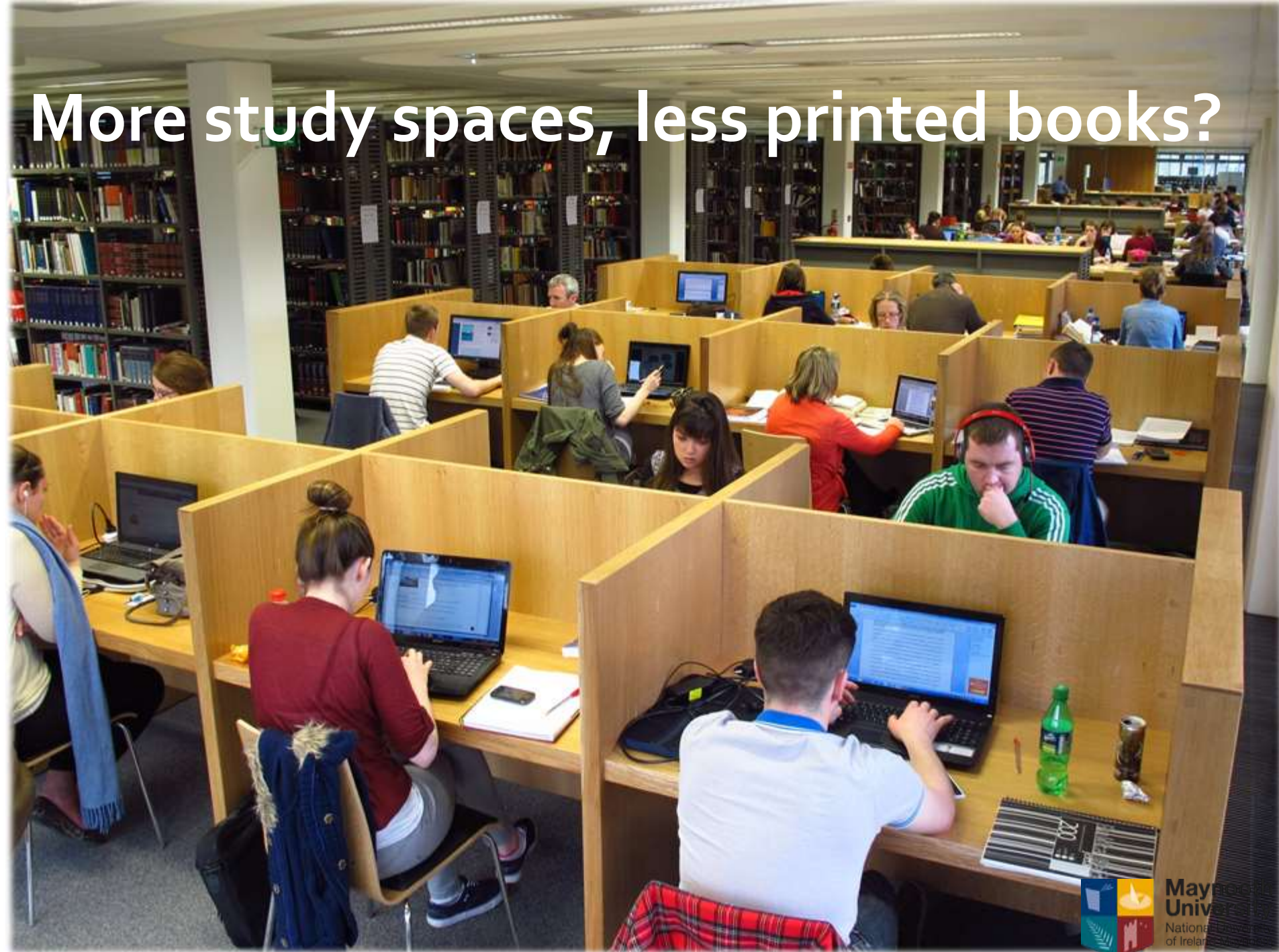
We want our library to be..

- Alive!
- Used & Useful
- Popular
- Intuitive
- Suitable
- Flexible
- Innovative
- *Learning centred*
- *Research conducive*
- *Centre of the campus*

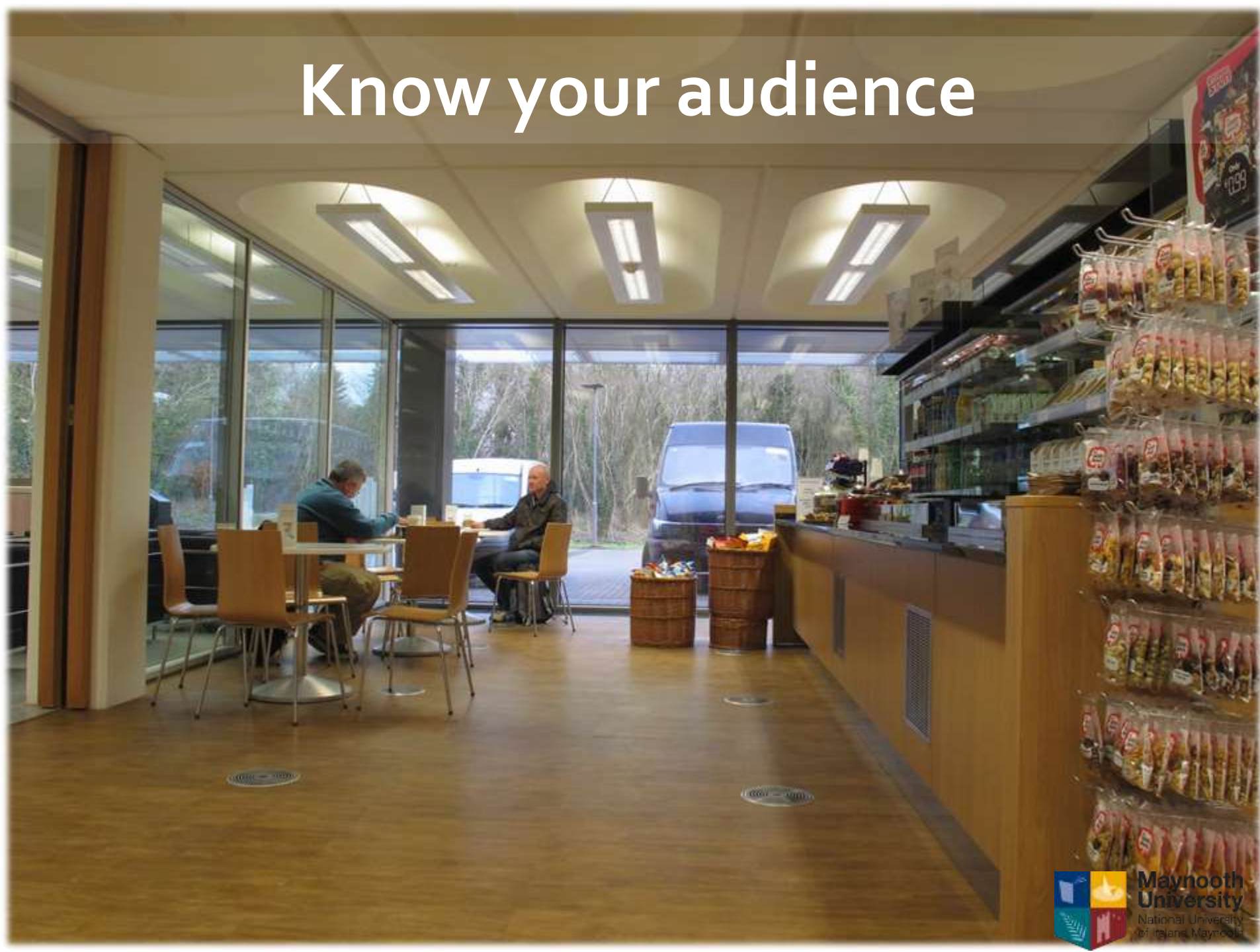
We want our library to..

- Address issues with pre-existing (1984) building
- Reflect development in libraries in the intervening years
- Deliver a building representative of our values (student-centred, flexible and innovative)
- Address needs of students, staff (internal and external) and wider stakeholders
- **Use the building as a catalyst for wider change (internal and external)**

More study spaces, less printed books?



Know your audience



Group Study



Respect what works...



...Old school has its place.



**...Don't pre
judge...**

A photograph of a modern library interior. In the foreground, there are several wooden chairs with black upholstered seats and backs. Behind them is a long, low wooden bookshelf with open shelves containing books. The bookshelf has a dark wood base and a lighter wood top. To the right, there are large windows with dark frames. The floor is covered in a grey carpet. The ceiling has recessed lighting. The overall atmosphere is bright and modern.

Follow your (collective) vision



You might be right!

A photograph of a modern university interior. On the left, a wide staircase with a glass railing leads up. In the center, a planter box filled with various green plants sits on the floor. To the right, a lounge area features a long black sofa where two people are sitting and talking. The wall behind them is covered in a grid of small, colorful portrait photographs. The ceiling has recessed lighting, and a green exit sign is visible in the upper right.

Let things evolve

Let go



What is the impact?

- Quality Review: “a resounding success”
- Metric: Greater user satisfaction
- Metric: Physical footfall up
- Strategic: Library seen as ‘more relevant’
- Can you trust feedback?



Lessons

- Do not compromise
- Remember what you're doing (and why)
- Take a risk
- Staff and students inform design
- Don't forget the staff!



The Library at
the centre of
everything

Thank you

hugh.murphy@nuim.ie

@hughtweet