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Night at the Library Without a Librarian

3 Baltic University Library Meeting
15-16 May, 2019

History and
beginnings of the
research



- **Library of the Nature science**
- **Research “Library where books never sleep - Center for Natural Sciences library accessibility” done by R. Alksbirze and E. Gevele in 2016**

Problem of
research

It is necessary to identify and to study/investigate if users are able to navigate in the library without the assistance of librarian.



The purpose
and issues of
the research



*how the user of the library
behaves and uses the library
services at the night hours*

- 1. What are user's habits in a library that works 24/7?*
- 2. Does the quality of the library services meet the needs of users?*
- 3. Is the functionality of the library relevant to the needs of users?*

The course and
methodology of
the research

- Monday 10 p.m – 1 a.m
- Tuesday 6 p.m – 10 p.m.
- Thursday 6 a.m. – 8 a.m.
- Friday 1 a.m. – 3 a.m.
- Saturday 3 a.m. – 6 a.m



The course and methodology of the research [2]

- **Self-check machine;**
- **Books on the shelves;**
- **Online databases;**
- **Computer, photocopier,**
- **Many factors, for example,....**

Results of the research

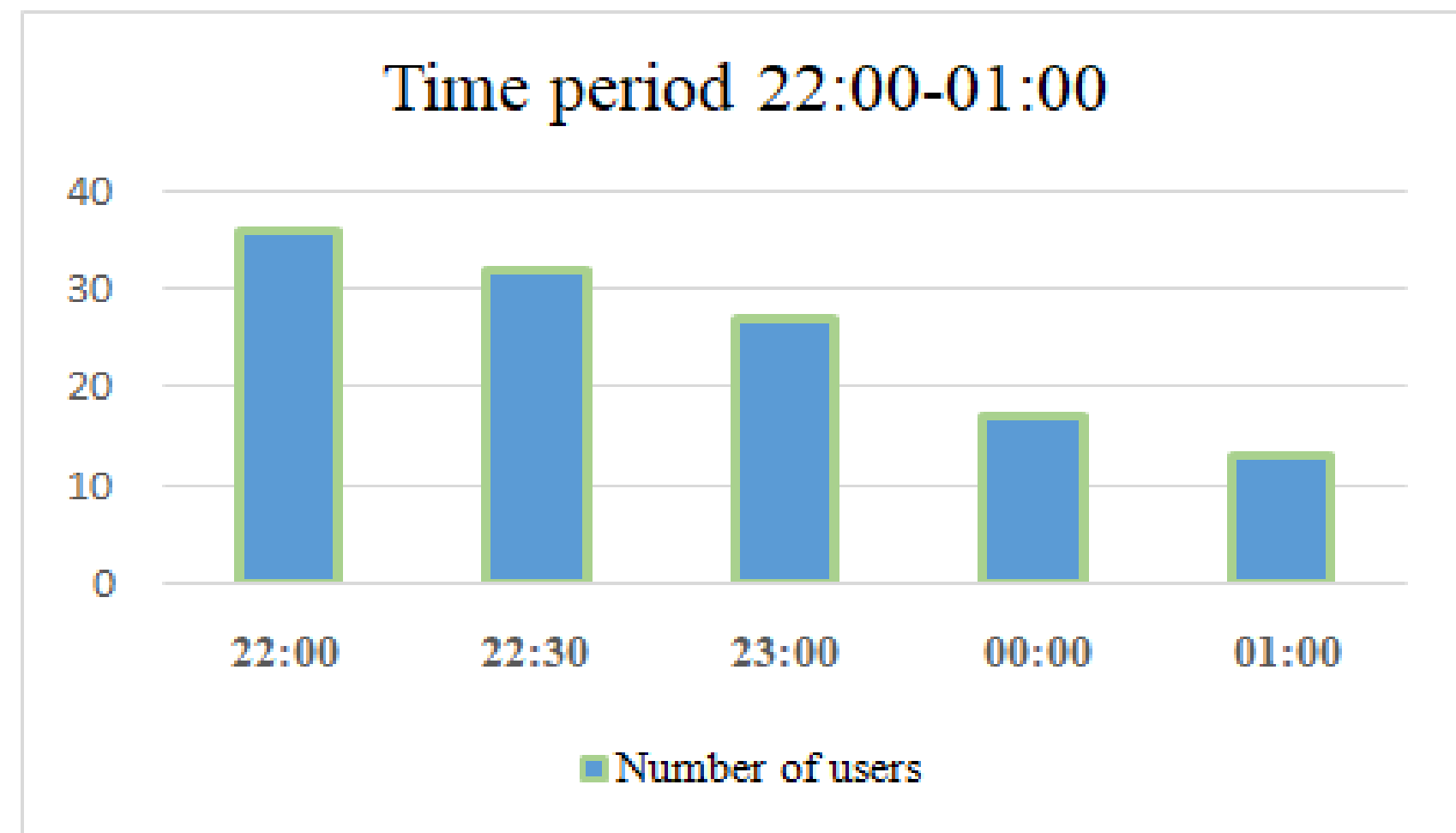


Figure 2. Number of users at time period 22:00 – 01:00

Results of the research [2]

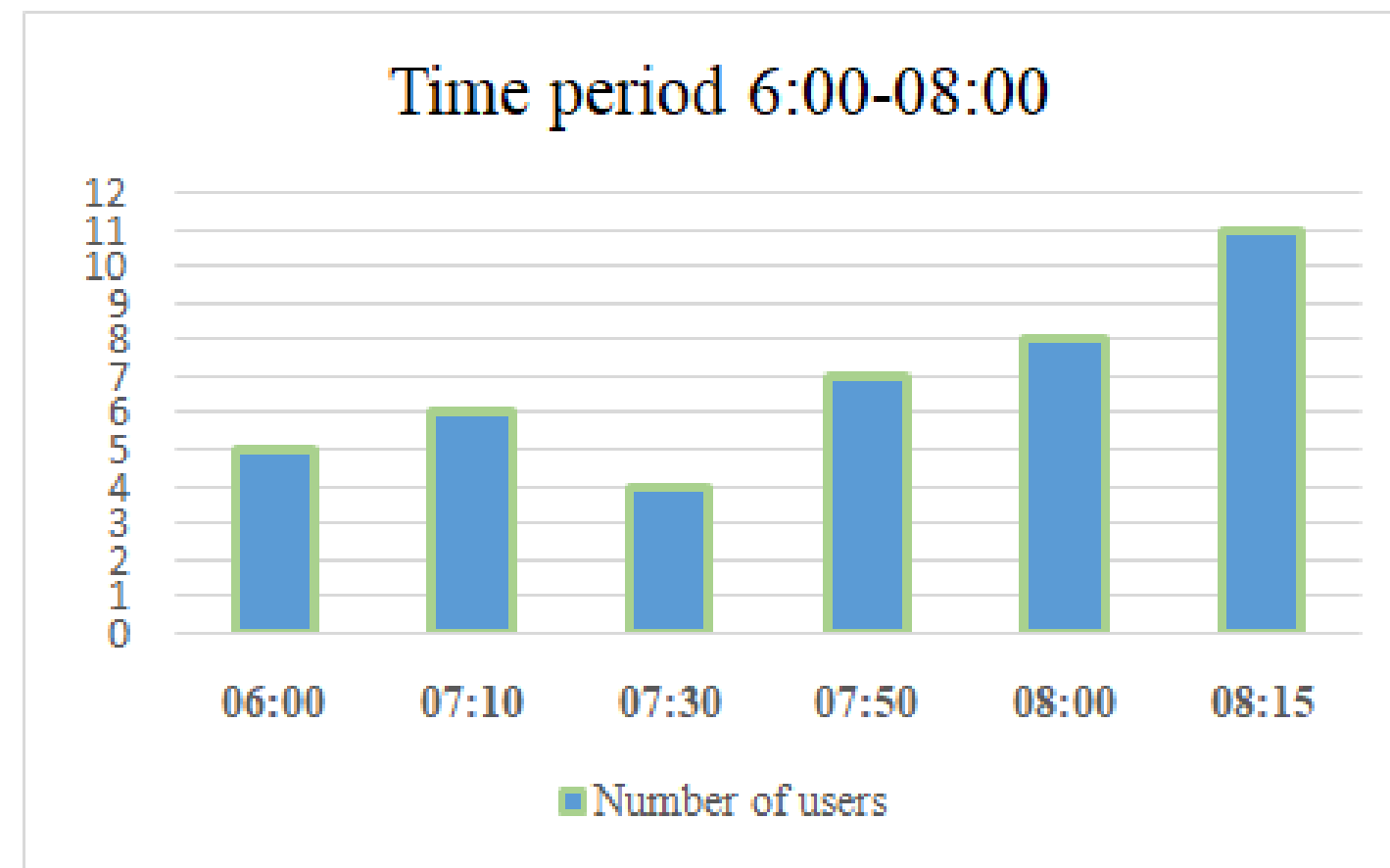


Figure 4. Number of users at time period 06:00 – 08:00

Conclusions

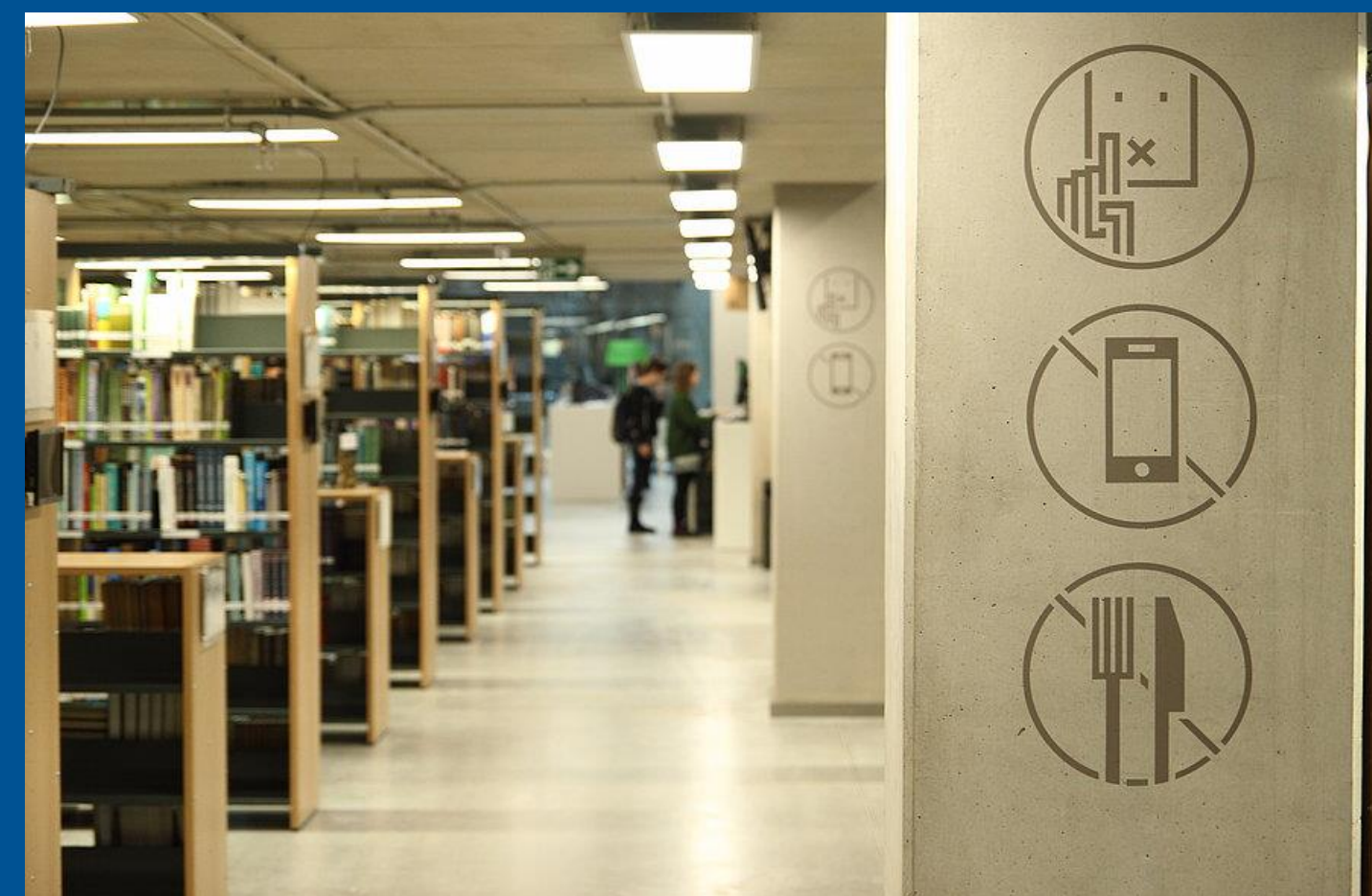


Research shows:

- many users experienced problems to study if noise level was too high, which affects their habits;
- most common habit was to use book, which is available to use only in the library;
- Factors, for example, weather, bus timetable, day of the week.

However, the most important..

Library users are thankful for the possibility to study at the library at any time of the day



After research



- **Not so noisy**
- **The lighting is not reduced during the night hours**
- **Laptops available 24/7**
- **Reserved books from repository are available 24/7**

After research (1)

Available:

http://bobcatsss2018.lu.lv/files/2018/07/BOBCATSSS_2018.pdf



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Abstract

Library of the Nature science of the Library of the University of Latvia is first that offer 24-hour access to the library in Latvia as well as access without a librarian. Therefore, it is hard to follow the reader until he leaves the library and a research must be done to define student behavior at library.

The purpose of this study is to understand the effectiveness of 24-hour access and to gather the data of user behavior at the library working hours when librarian is not present. The observation done be held to obtain data from students and to find out their opinion and experience at the Library of the Nature science of the Library of the University of Latvia.

The main research question is how user of the library behaves and uses the library services at the night hours from 6 p.m. – 8 a.m. when there is no librarian present.

The results of the study will show why, when and how students use the library at the night hours from 6 p.m. – 8 a.m., do they understand what is the behavior of the user when there is no librarian on the site. Creation process of a student campus is in progress at University of Latvia and the results of the research will be useful for planning the library environment in the next buildings as well as to find out which of the library services at the existing library has to develop.

Keywords: User behaviour, library at night, library without librarian, academic library

Literature review

Research "Library where books never sleep – Center for Natural Sciences library accessibility" done by

R. Alksbirze and E. Gevele in 2016. Data was collected by observing information from library users. Main subjects was about comfort and accessibility of library. Results showed that library users is choosing late hours more often. Results is important and it requires more research to be done to observe more information about habitats in library in one, which is open 24/7 (Alksbirze, Gevele, 2016).

One of the research is "Mysteries in the Night: An Exploratory Study of Student Use and Perceptions of 24/5 Hours", in which the authors collected survey data during 2012 to explore how students used the hours and whether they perceived that the provision of 24/5 hours contributes to their academic success. The research has been created at the Oregon State University Valley Library in 2012.

The authors designed a 12question two-page survey to be completed by students using the library during overnight hours. The questions fall into four primary: demographic information; use of and activities during the overnight hours; the perceived academic impact of using the overnight hours; and a space to provide any additional information or thoughts about the service. The survey was distributed twice during the winter, spring, and fall terms of 2012.

The authors came to conclusions, that 90% of the respondents believed that 24/5 hours make a difference to them academically. In addition, the data show that undergraduate students, engineering students, students between the ages of 18 and 23, and males are the most frequent users of the 24/5 hours. Additional comments from survey respondents expressed appreciation for the hours and a hope that 24/5 hours would continue. Many also believed that the quality of the environment contributed to the productive use of the time to study, research, and write (Brewer&Miller, 2003).

Library of the House of Science

