

# YALE-NUS COLLEGE LIBRARY REPORT

**Date:** 18 September 2015

**Contributors:** Ami Firdaus '17<sup>3</sup>, Nyang Binglin '18<sup>3</sup>, Dave Chappell '18<sup>3</sup>, Seow Yongzhi '18<sup>3</sup>, Zach Mahon '17<sup>3</sup>, Avery Simmons '19<sup>1</sup>, Fatima Ezzahra Daif '18<sup>1</sup>, Will Goebel '19<sup>2</sup>, Wyin Kok '19<sup>1</sup>, Clara (19)<sup>2</sup>, Vasudha Kataruka '19<sup>1</sup>

**Editor:** Dave Chappell '18<sup>3</sup>

## Contents

1. INTRODUCTION
  - a. Process and structure
  - b. Limitations
2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
3. AREA OF FOCUS
  - a. LIBRARY ACCESS
4. APPENDIX I - POLLING DATA

---

<sup>1</sup> Public Representative on the Community Living Committee

<sup>2</sup> Residential College Advisory Committee Representative on the Community Living Committee

<sup>3</sup> Government Member on the Community Living Committee

## **INTRODUCTION**

This is a report on Yale-NUS's library policy conducted by the the Student Government's Community Living Committee (SGCLC), which comprises of members of the Student Government, Residential College Advisory Committees (RCACs) and public representatives. It consists of specific recommendations and summarised feedback from various channels.

### **Process and structure**

The contents of the report come from a thorough review of previous feedback on library policy, additional polling of students through the Yale-NUS Student Government website and social media pages, and an in-depth focused group discussion. Online polling results (See Appendix I) generally reflect feedback received through other channels, with over ½ of the student population participating.

This report raises recommendations for addressing student concerns around library access for both Yale-NUS students and non-Yale-NUS students.

All contributors listed above helped craft the all policies recommended in this report. To ensure these recommendations are representative of student body they were crafted by members of the Student Government, the RCACs and public representatives, from all classes and Residential Colleges, which were selected independently from the issue of library overcrowding, with reference to polling data and written feedback submitted by the student body. These were then compiled into a single report by the editor, after which the report was commented on and proofread by others in the committee.

### **Limitations**

1. Due to the pressing nature of the situation regarding overcrowding in the library, this report was put together within a week. We acknowledge that mistakes may arise due to this limitation.
2. It is worth noting that biases will arise in the submission of feedback and participation in the opinion polls. This may lead to negative opinions being voiced over positive ones.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

These are the key points from the report. The Student Government recommends...

1. Making the 24-hour Study Area Yale-NUS exclusive by installing card access machines to the entrance and to the interior door, which seals when the library closes;
2. Putting up signs requesting that non-Yale-NUS students use other study spaces during time period leading up to mid-terms and finals, until this system can be introduced;
3. Making the meeting rooms Yale-NUS exclusive;
4. And converting the fire door on level 2 of the library, facing Elm, into an entrance.

## A. LIBRARY ACCESS

### Guiding questions

1. How many times a week do you use the Yale-NUS study spaces (particularly the Library)?
2. Are there sufficient study spaces in the Yale-NUS library?
3. Should Yale-NUS study spaces be open to non Yale-NUS students?
4. Should non-Yale-NUS students be able to book the library's group study rooms?
5. Should non-Yale-NUS students be able to use the library's meeting rooms when they aren't booked?

### Recommendations

1. **24-hour study area Exclusivity:** The 24-hour study area should be made Yale-NUS exclusive by installing card readers on both the external door and the internal one, which closes when the library closes. Non-Yale-NUS students would still be able to access this space, provided they were accompanied by Yale-NUS students.
2. **Meeting Room exclusivity:** The group study rooms should be made Yale-NUS exclusive, either by installing card readers or through signs requesting non-Yale-NUS students do not use them.
3. **Temporary signs:** Before this can be implemented signs could be placed either reserving the learning commons for Yale-NUS students or requesting non-Yale-NUS students to use other study spaces.
4. **Physical access:** The rest of the library should remain open to non-Yale-NUS students and should be made accessible through the level 1 entrance, the entrance next to the wellness centre and the fire-door on level 2 of the library, next to elm.
5. **Scanner movement:** The book scanners on level 2 should be moved in-front of the stairs to help prevent the stealing of books.

### Reasoning

1. **24-hour study area Exclusivity:** The suggestion of making the 24-hour study area Yale-NUS exclusive was so as to ensure that Yale-NUS students always had some reserved study space in the library. It is hoped that this can combat the overcrowding issue, while also allowing non-Yale-NUS students access to Yale-NUS books and other resources.
2. **Meeting Room exclusivity:** Students suggested making group study rooms exclusive, due to their inability to access them on short notice. While there is a booking system

available it can take days to process bookings and students often want to use the group study rooms on short notice.

3. **Temporary signs:** This suggestion was made as a temporary fix to the issue of overcrowding, while the card access to the 24-hour study area was installed. While not easily enforceable, it is hoped that the social request for Yale-NUS priority would be acknowledged by some, thus freeing up some space.
4. **Physical access:** If the Learning Commons were to be closed off as the primary public entrance to the library then alternative entrances would need to be made available. The level 1 entrance was recommended as use of it does not disturb students whilst they are studying. The entrance next to the wellness centre was recommended, for similar reasons. The current fire exit, next to elm, was recommended to give easier access to the library to both Yale-NUS students and non-Yale-NUS students, as well as allowing students to access the Programme Rooms without disturbing students who are studying.
5. **Scanner movement:** If moved to the top of the stairs then the book scanners make it difficult to students to remove books from the library regardless of the entrance/exit that they use.

### **Summarised feedback**

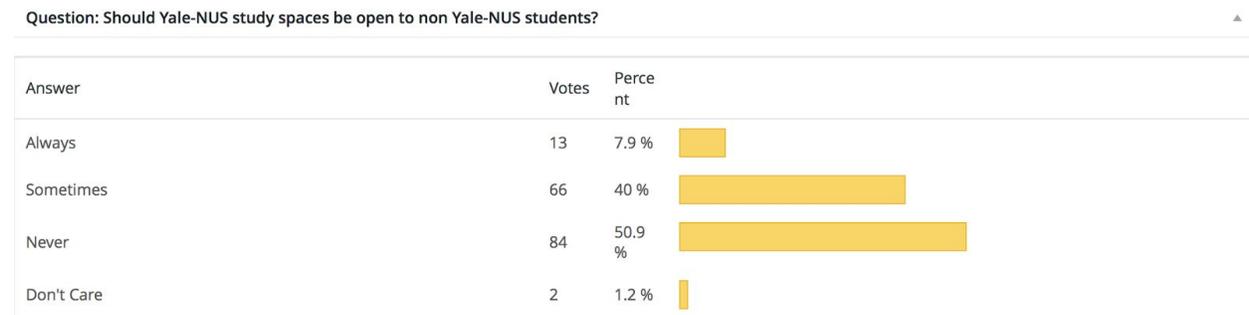
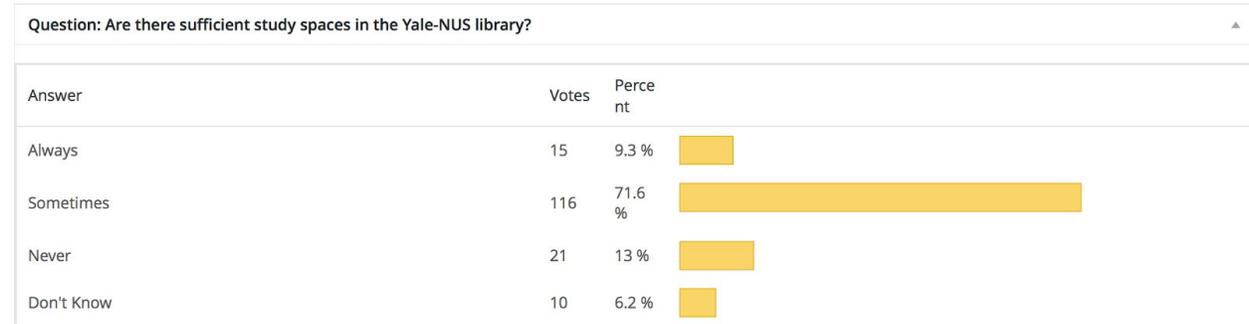
1. **The need for non-Yale-NUS students to access certain Yale-NUS resources:** Students acknowledge the need for non-Yale-NUS students to have access to the books available in Yale-NUS's library, especially the students of NUS. Similarly, very few students registered a principle concern with non-Yale-NUS students using Yale-NUS resources and registered a desire to make them feel welcome, when doing so.
2. **The issue of overcrowding and need for Yale-NUS priority:** However, while many students don't object to Yale-NUS resources being shared they feel that Yale-NUS should have priority over the resources. Many students expressed concerns that at times, especially peak hours, they are unable to find seats in the library study spaces due to the influx of non-Yale-NUS students. A number of students were concerned that this problem would only become more pressing and apparent as mid-terms and finals approached, more students joined Yale-NUS and more non-Yale-NUS students found out about the library's resources.
3. **The need for meeting room exclusivity:** This concern was noted in particular with regard to meeting rooms, due to their limited number, especially after the library's closing hours. While students acknowledge the ability to book rooms, recognition of bookings can take days, and students did not feel comfortable asking non-Yale-NUS students to leave when they have been unable to obtain a booking. Additionally, it was noted that the booking of NUS meeting rooms have a tiered system that favours NUS students over Yale-NUS students

4. **Yale-NUS's status as autonomous college:** A number of students also cited Yale-NUS's status as an autonomous college of NUS, stating that many other NUS colleges have resources that Yale-NUS students do not have access to.
5. **The need for good relations with non-Yale-NUS students:** Students also acknowledge the need to build good relations with non-Yale-NUS students, especially our neighbouring colleges at NUS and feel that an explicit ban on non-Yale-NUS students could harm this. However, students are also concerned that the overcrowding issue is straining relations, rather than improving them, especially when it comes to disputes over meeting rooms.

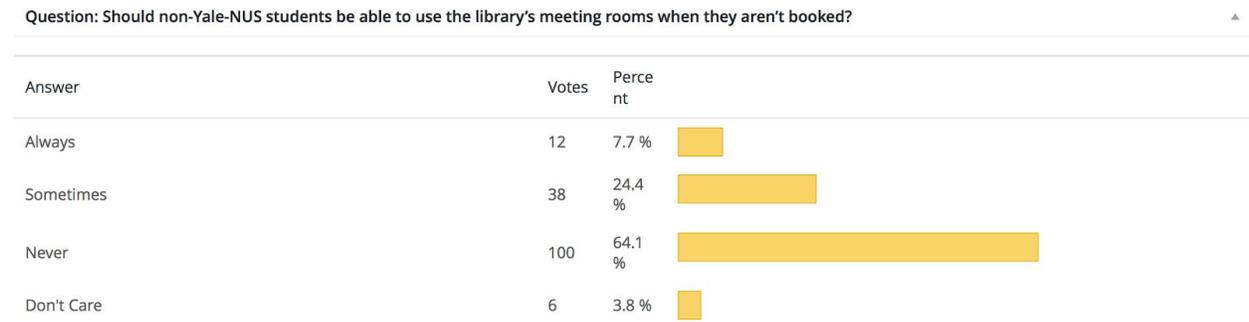
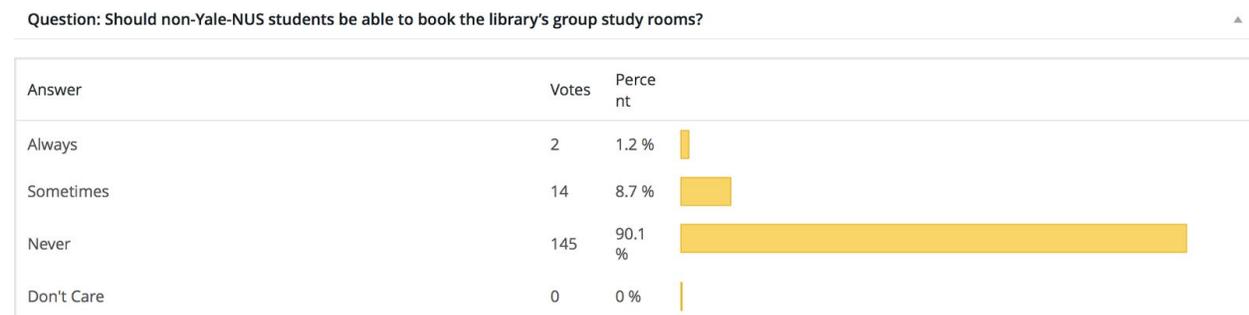
## APPENDIX I - POLLING DATA

Polls were done online through the Yale-NUS Student Government website. See: <http://studentgov.common.yale-nus.edu.sg/2015/08/28/common-curriculum-questions/>

### Library Access



### Meeting Room Access



### Library Etiquette

Question: Should students be able to reserve tables in the Library by leaving their belongings unattended? ▲

