



mind. What do you see? Does it look anything like the giant Reading Room at Rutherford South? Is it the giant Reading Room at Rutherford South?

Any time I enter this room, I feel like I've magically left the U of A and entered a centuries-old, ivy-league library like something that belongs at Oxford. For me and my often over-active imagination, *this* is what a library should look like. I was really looking forward to visiting Rutherford South.

It's too bad that my visits to the Reading Room of Rutherford South (a quiet area) were marred by the rude and obnoxious behaviour of some of the students there. My Tuesday morning visit (at 11:25am) was not very pleasant. As has been the case with all the libraries that I observed, the majority of students there were well behaved. However, in Rutherford South, there was also a lot of overly loud chit-chat all around me. Students consumed food and beverages that could have been consumed in HUB mall. Cellphones rang.

In addition to being the most library-esque, Rutherford South also holds the distinction of being the only library where I observed worse behaviour in the evening than during the day. During my Monday 6pm visit, I noticed all the usual violations: cellphones, loud group conversations, and so on. A group a few tables away caught my attention. There sat a couple, along with their friend. What caught my attention about this group was that the young man was giving his girlfriend a shoulder massage, because, as we all know, the library was designed for this sort of thing. After a bit of that, the guy moved his hands down and started to massage something a bit lower down. I can't be certain, but I think he started to massage her ass, because she and the other woman started to laugh loudly. Following this, the guy and his honey-buns began to admire her nails, and then compared the size of their hands. An arm-wrestling match followed a knuckle-cracking contest between all three of them.

What enlightened scholars walk these hallowed halls indeed!

Some interesting factoids:

- The basement of Rutherford South has a Bruce Peel Special Collections Library, a collection that includes English works from the 18th century, an Alberta Folklore Collection, and many other rare pieces.

Etiquette breaches exist in all libraries, but I'm happy to report that they are the exception, not the rule, as majority of people who come to the libraries use them appropriately.

Winspear Business Reference Library

Okay, so I didn't know until very, very recently (when I started working on this article) that there was a library in the Business building. Paying a visit to this library would allow me to explore a corner of the campus that I had never seen before.

This visit occurred on a Tuesday afternoon at 2:45pm. I started off my visit with a wander around the small-ish library. On one side of the main floor is the common area, while the other side is a quiet area, so when I sat in the quiet area, I could hear the discussions coming from the common area. Even though the library put up a sign asking students in the common area to watch the volumes of their voices, I wondered about the logic

of organizing a small space in such a way; it's kind of like having a "peeing" and a "non-peeing" section in a swimming pool.

Regardless, the library has many very nice features. There are beautiful leather couches and chairs. Yes, you heard me. Leather.

I went upstairs to check out the small second floor, and as I came down, I saw a couple smooching in the carrels. (Scandalous!) Then I went to the librarian and tattled. So there.

My Monday evening visit (at 7pm) was very pleasant. It was so quiet that I could hear a pin drop. (Fortunately the students had enough etiquette not to throw pins around the library.) The large windows allowed sunshine to stream through. Even though it was still very busy this evening, the library was very quiet.

An interesting factoid:

- This library has study carrels that offer priority to students with disabilities.

HT Coutts Education & Physical Education Library

I visited this library on a Monday afternoon at 12:30pm. At first, I went to the second floor, which is a quiet area. For the most part, it was indeed very quiet there. The basement of this library has a common area, which was very busy at this time, and a big group work room, which was empty, surprisingly enough. The second floor has nice big windows beside the tables, so there was plenty of natural light when I was working there.

My Monday evening visit was at 8:15pm, and I noticed how quiet and empty the library was at this time. There were only four other people in on the 2nd floor the whole time I was there.

An interesting factoid:

- In the Coutts library, you can find a historical collection that includes old

textbooks, a Curriculum Bibliography, and children's books.

John W Scott Health Sciences Library

Deep within the maze that is the Health Sciences Centre/U of A hospital/Medical Sciences Building/Clinical Sciences Building, there is a library. It's a large, well-lit library with natural light and an open-concept design. Each floor has a different noise allowance, but during both of my visits (a Tuesday at 6:30pm and a Thursday at 12:10pm), it was quiet. I spent my time on floor "1 a," the silent area, where I heard—wait for it—a cell-phone (coming from another floor) ringing with the *Mission Impossible* theme song.

During my afternoon visit, I was sitting at a carrel, when a woman walked past, and left a strong trail of perfume. Now, unless this woman was Pepé le Pew (and she wasn't), she should have reconsidered spraying that entire bottle of perfume on herself. Nobody, and I mean *nobody* can ever measure up to the coolness and charisma of Pepé le Pew.

An interesting factoid:

- The Rawlinson Rare Book Collection housed in this library features books that date back to the 16th century.

My library tour: completed. Clearly there are a few students who have very interesting notions about what constitutes proper library etiquette. Obviously the etiquette breaches that I observed might not have happened if I had visited on a different day, or at a different time, and the purpose of my observations wasn't to make broad generalizations about each library. Etiquette breaches exist in all libraries, but I'm happy to report that they are the exception, not the rule, as majority of people who come to the libraries use them appropriately.

Now that mid-terms are creeping up, please take advantage of everything your library can offer. Just play nicely, okay?