

Reevaluating Space and Place in Academic Libraries

Kaeli Nieves-Whitmore^a, Dr. Miriam E. Sweeney^b

^aThe University of Alabama College of Communication and Information Science, USA

^bThe University of Alabama School of Library and Information Science, USA

^akmnieveswhitmore@crimson.ua.edu, ^bmesweeney1@ua.edu

ABSTRACT

The concepts of space and place in relation to libraries has been a popular topic of discussion in Library and Information Science (LIS) literature for decades. Libraries have been heralded as spaces and places of discovery, safety, escape, fear, control, community, learning, work, and relaxation among many other designations. Focusing on academic libraries, the presenters explore the ways academic libraries have been thought of as spaces and places in the past in LIS. Through a critical analysis of the literature in two prominent LIS scholarly databases, the presenters seek to answer the questions, “How has space and place been framed in academic library literature?” and, “What perspectives or frameworks could potentially address existing gaps in the literature?” Of particular interest is the affective relationship between people and the spaces in which they function and how better understanding such relationships can deepen our understanding of academic libraries as spaces and places.

ALISE RESEARCH TAXONOMY TOPICS

Academic libraries; Critical Librarianship; Students.

AUTHOR KEYWORDS

Space; Place; Topophilia; Affect.