



# “It's not your typical library”: An Evaluation on BiblioTech Services



Interdisciplinary Learning & Teaching

Overview of Research Design of Instructional Inquiry

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## Introduction

BiblioTech, the first all-digital public library in the United States, is located in San Antonio, Texas. The first location opened in September of 2013, and a second location opened in 2015. Serving residents of Bexar County, BiblioTech provides digital services in the form of ebooks, computers, WiFi, e-readers, etc. Our studies are the first to engage with the community serviced by this new library model, and particularly, to examine the role of BiblioTech in the lives of students.

## Research Questions

### Question 1

- Is there a relationship between the use of BiblioTech services and reading achievement of middle and high school students?

### Question 2

- What do students value about the services that BiblioTech provides?

## Methods

### Question 1

The sample included 535 students from a local school district (one in which BiblioTech has made significant outreach efforts). The Chi-Square statistical method was used to assess the relationship between use of services at BiblioTech and reading achievement by students. We examined the relationship between circulation count and reading achievement, as determined by students' pass/fail outcomes on the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) standard.

### Question 2

We conducted five focus groups, ranging in size from 4-7 participants, at a BiblioTech site on October 22, 2015. Focus groups consisted of middle and high school students identified by BiblioTech personnel, and we conducted discussions within a semi-structured interview format with an introductory chalk talk. Constant comparison was used on the transcribed data.

## Results

### Question 1

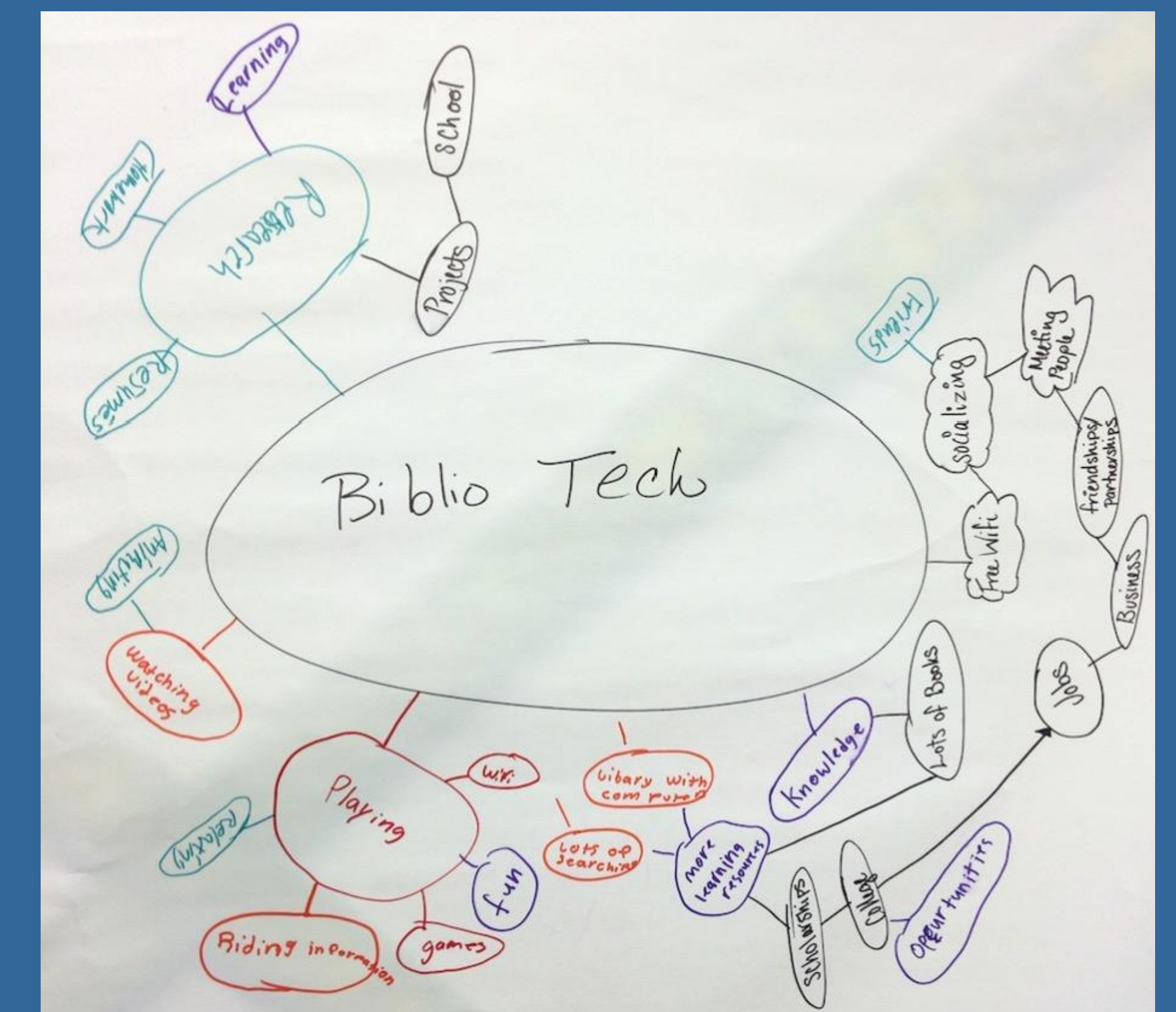
There is a positive relationship between the use of BiblioTech services and reading achievement of middle and high school students.

- Statistically significant ( $p < .05$ )
- Medium effect size (Cramers  $V = .504$ )

### Question 2

Four themes emerged from the constant comparison analysis.

- Appreciations of and about...  
*“I like the fact that it's not your typical library”*
- Affordances of...  
*“If I wasn't for BidlioTech, I couldn't come here to do essays, and I probably wouldn't be in the tenth grade right now”*
- Relationships with peers...  
*“...you have to learn how to make friendships and partnerships and you get to socialize here, too, with all the different clubs and activities and things, it helps”*
- Personal development as a result of...  
*“I'm learning responsibility, and I'm showing my mom that now”*



## References

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