

FINDINGS

1. Readers do not leave the reading rooms to socialise in public spaces but they may be looking for opportunities to interact with other visitors and readers.
2. Public spaces are used by readers but also by members of the public who arrange to meet there for work and leisure.
3. Personal space inside the reading rooms is defined but not respected with private effects spilling over onto neighbours' desks.
4. Most readers have a laptop for working and note book for written notes. They also bring a wide variety of personal possessions into the room, such as: keys, jewellery, medicine, wallets and phones.
5. There is very little spoken interaction between readers in reading rooms but plenty of scope for interaction between smart or networked objects.

<http://vimeo.com/33655196>

www.informationenvironments.org.uk
informationenvironments.tumblr.com

SmartBook

Research presentation by
MRes Information Environments
London College of Communication
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BRIEF

The British Library has amazing collections of books, journals, sounds, oral history recordings, maps, stamps, images and much more. We have over 116,000 registered Readers and 1,400 people use our Reading Rooms every day (including our Boston Spa site in Yorkshire and Newspapers Library in Colindale). Our Readers are from a wide range of backgrounds – academics, students, inventors, small businesses (who mainly use the Business & IP Centre), charities, authors, family historians and scientists.

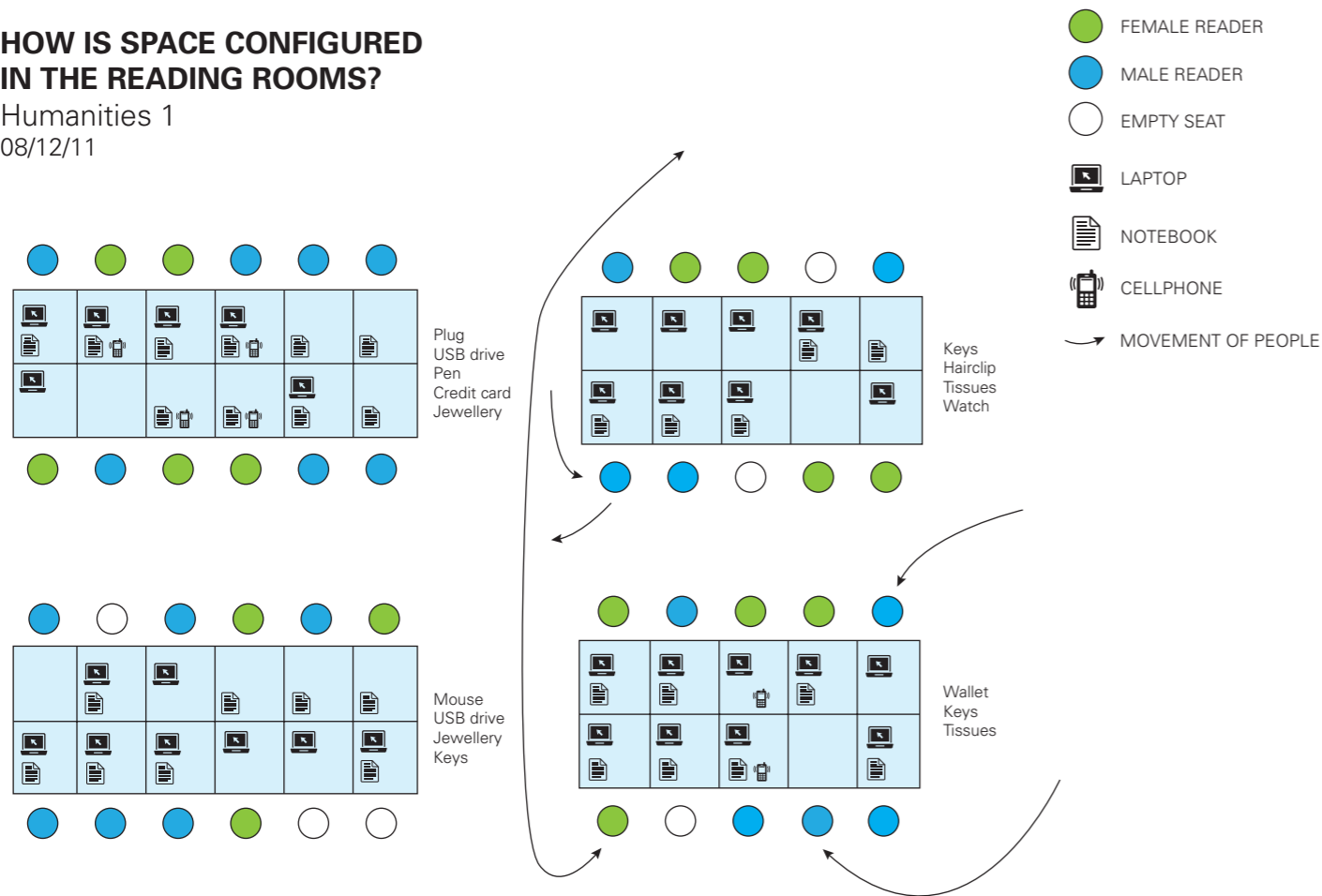
Within the Library building you can see hundreds of Readers poring over manuscripts in silence, absorbed in their own thoughts. They are working on groundbreaking projects, and, on the surface of it, don't want to be disturbed.

But scratch beneath the surface and there's a different picture. Do our Readers wonder who is sat at the desk next to them? Do they want to reach out to people researching a similar topic? Are they stuck and need some help and support? Or if they have a commercial aspect to their work, are they looking for contacts?

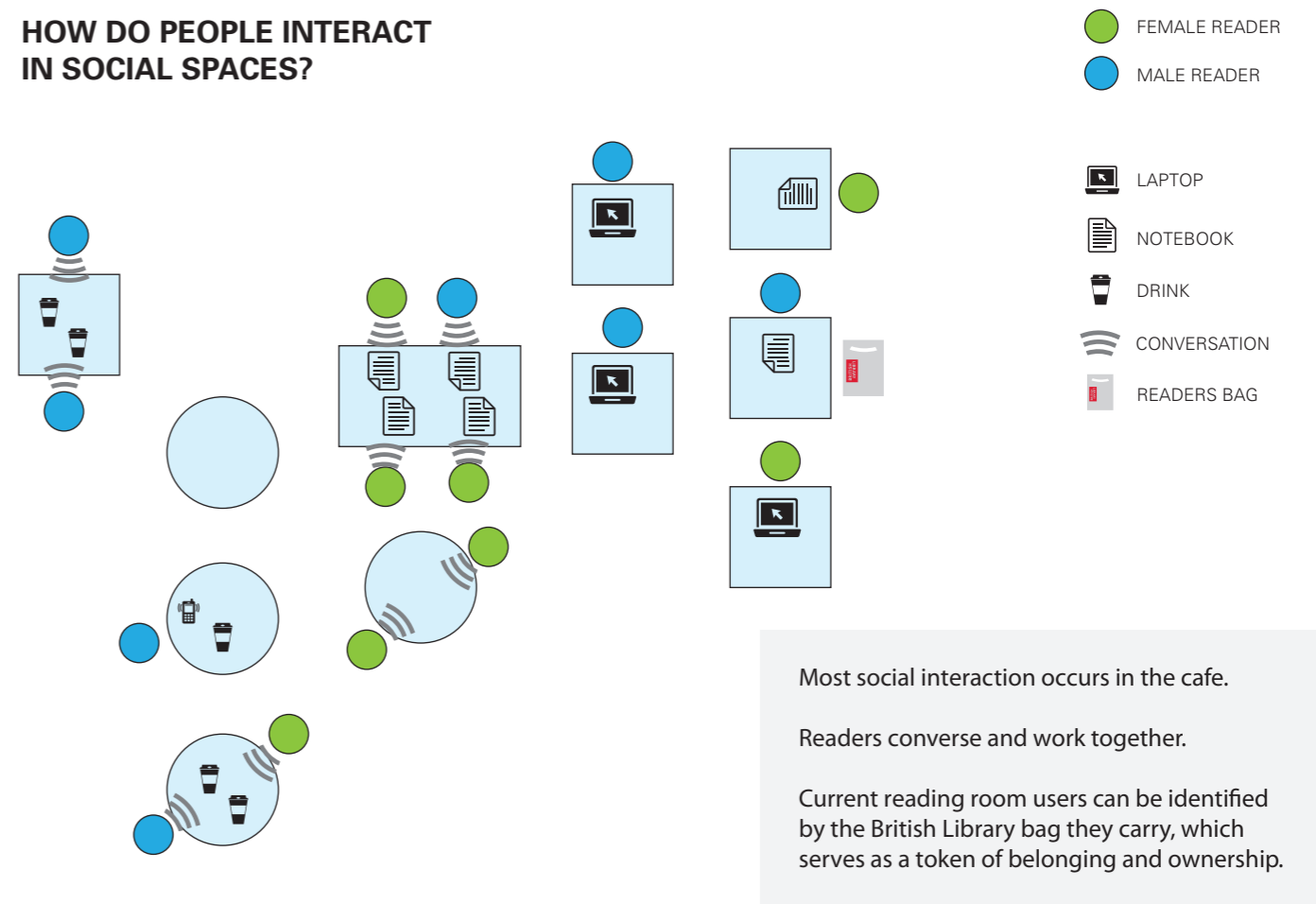
What happens when you connect an author with a scientist? Or an inventor with a group of students? There is a 'silent network' of Readers that to date has been largely untapped and unconnected. The potential is huge.

HOW IS SPACE CONFIGURED IN THE READING ROOMS?

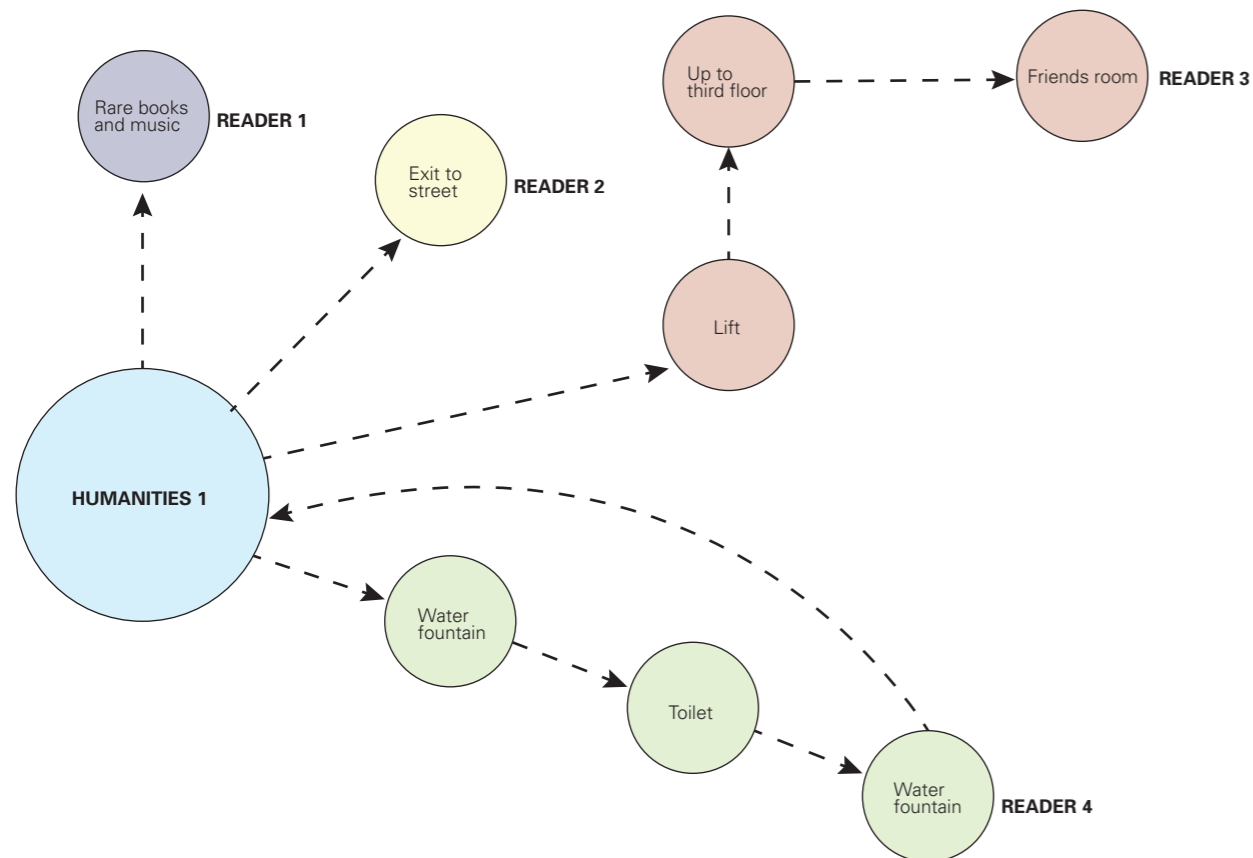
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HOW DO PEOPLE INTERACT IN SOCIAL SPACES?



WHERE DO READERS GO FROM THE READING ROOMS?



HOW IS PERSONAL SPACE ARRANGED?

