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Because of the pandemic, Edmon Low Library has had to pause hosting events that happen in a normal year as well as compromise some of the amenities it offers in a normal year.

Pausing events that draw students in and reducing amenities is a factor in the low foot traffic that the library has seen.

With Covid restrictions, the number of people allowed in a study room has shrunk, events like a library scavenger hunt have been put on pause, and even the Pete's Pet Posse therapy dogs are in the library at a fraction of the time that they used to be.

Amenities like study rooms for four or more people, in a typical year, brought in group settings of students. Today the maximum number of people you can reserve a study room for is three.

"We used to have like eight and ten person rooms and now the highest that we go is three in the rooms, so we don't have as many people per room now," Elaine Duff who works at the desk on the first floor in the library said. Other amenities the library used to offer inside the study rooms have been taken as well. "We also don't have the smart boards in the rooms anymore," Duff said.

"The study rooms are really limited on how many people you can have and just being available all the time," student Addi Wall said.

Some of the study areas in the library have been compromised as well, "the two giant reading rooms on the second floor have been converted into classrooms," said Duff.

Not only has the library had to compromise some of its amenities, but the library also used to host events like open mic nights and scavenger hunts, which brought many students into the library.

"I used to love at the beginning of the semester the library scavenger hunt," said Duff. "They'd have all these free snacks and free water bottles and all this fun stuff at the library for the first week of school, and I really do miss that".

Events like the scavenger hunt allowed for students to get to know the library while enjoying free snacks and hanging out with friends.

Another amenity the library used to house is the Pete's Pet Posse therapy dogs. There used to be "Muttday Mondays" and one or two therapy dogs in the library for around an hour every day. Now there is typically only one dog, and the dogs are in the library less frequently throughout the week.

"I definitely wish Pete's Pet Posse was closer on campus, I feel like they're just in random places," said Addi Wall.

“Pete’s Pet Posse doesn’t really come in the library much anymore and so I do miss the dogs,” Duff said.

The coffee shop in the library, Café Libro, used to also be an area with a couple of tables you could study at, but those tables do not have accompanying chairs now, and you can only be in Café Libro to pick something up, to ensure that social distancing guidelines are being followed.

The door by the entrance of the library is now the exit and “you have to walk all the way around, which is inconvenient,” said Addi Wall. You also have to place your order through Grub Hub now and there is no in-person ordering.

She thinks that a competition game night could draw more people to the library.

“I think it would be cool if they had a night where they used the computers and there was a competition in an online game,” said Wall.

She said that if the competition were a tournament allowing for everyone that wanted to play and they had food and prizes, it would get more people to come to the library.

Another way Addi thinks the library could draw more people in “having club meetings at the library”. Having the library be the official meeting place for clubs could draw in larger number of students that aren’t there to just study.

“I work for Red bull and actually hand out Red bull in the library pretty much every week,” student Dawson Smith said. “[The library] has definitely been more empty than usual, it’s kind of harder to hand it out,” Smith said.

“Honestly, people just aren’t here because they’re probably just at home because it’s like online school,” said Smith.