



TABLE IT AND THEY WILL COME

A Presentation for the STEM Librarians South conference
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Why do mobile reference

- We get out with our patrons
- We get interesting questions
- We can set up more interactions
- We learn about activities in our liaison groups
- We advertise the library

Background on our program

- Baylor University STEM librarians hold “office hours” in the Baylor Science Building (BSB) which houses the six science departments
- We have a table and tablecloth where we meet with students and faculty
- We set up near the Starbucks three times a week

Why we did our study

- Over Summer 2017, the table was stolen for a second time
- We waited to replace it until we had a secure storage space
- We continued holding office hours in the BSB at unoccupied tables
- We assumed that we had fewer patron interaction hours because we did not replace the table
- We still used the tablecloth but sat away from the Starbucks

What does the space look like?



Librarian waiting for a patron without table



Librarian working with patron in BSB



Our space



Where we set up



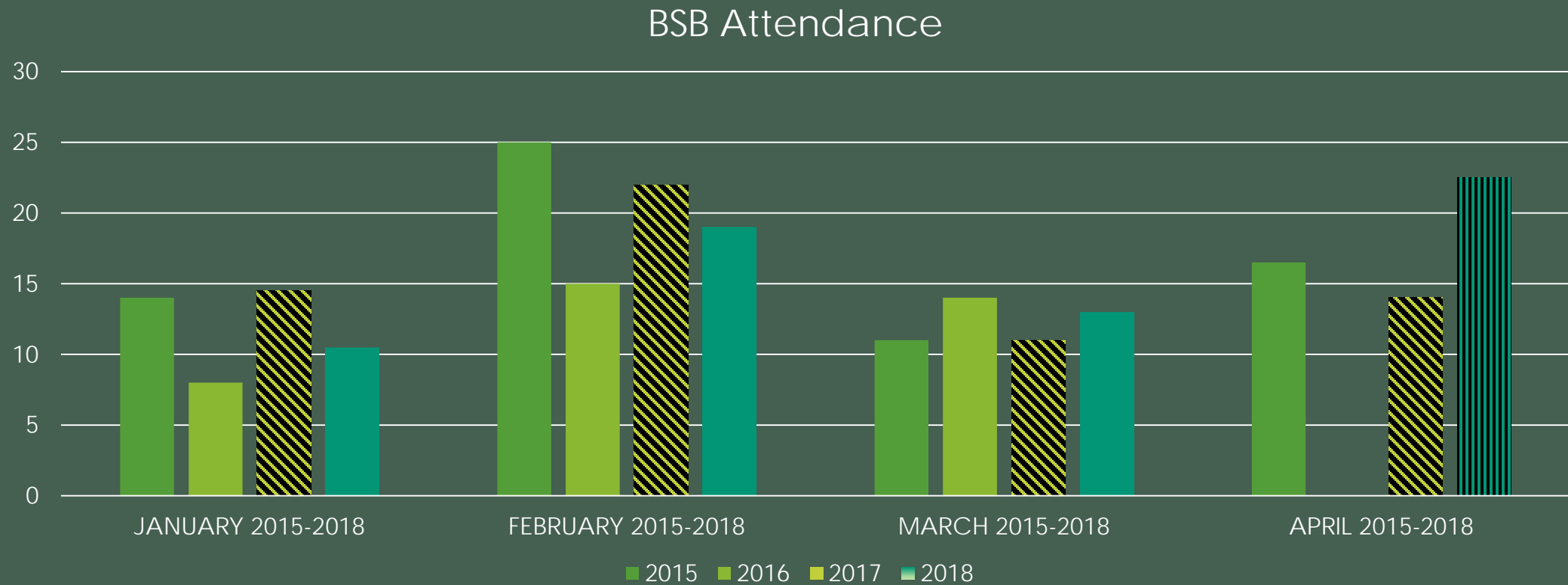
Mobile Reference Table



Librarian sitting at our table



Patron Interaction Hours



Our results

- With the table, there were
 - 0.6 patron interactions per hour
- Without the table there were
 - 0.25 patron interactions per hour
- Patrons who made an appointment found us
- Without our table we may have had fewer spontaneous patron interactions

Trying not to lose the table

