

8 Rummage around the room

What?

This tool will help you to find new and creative ways of working with the environments and rooms you often use for meetings or teaching/learning. How often do you use your surrounding environment as a resource?

Time?

30-60 minutes.

Why?

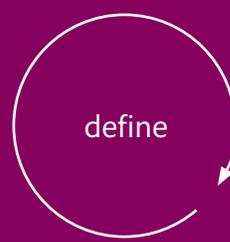
This is a tool that will help you think in a new way concerning the working and teaching/learning spaces within which you often spend time. Take a few minutes to think about how you could rearrange furniture and equipment to make it easier for your colleagues or students to talk to each other. Let the room support you in achieving your goals by rearranging it to fit the activity in which you are about to engage. The purpose is to actually use the room as a resource.

What is needed?

You will need pens, papers, post-its, and big papers or a whiteboard. Use a camera to document the different suggestions.

How?

1. Start by expressing what you want to do in the room. What is the purpose of the activity and how can the room help you?
2. Draw a map of the room.
3. Draw pictures or models of tables, chairs, whiteboards, projectors – anything that is in the room today. Also, remember to take the people in the room into consideration in your planning.
4. Make a map of the room, just the way it is set up today. Place the tables where they are standing today, the chairs where they are today, and so on. Take a picture.
5. Now you can get creative and try new solutions. Rearrange! Take a picture for each suggested rearrangement so that you will remember each one.
6. Think about how each suggestion will influence the way you work and interact with others.
7. Reflect, test and evaluate the different suggestions. If you can – rearrange the actual room.



Hints!

Involve students or colleagues by letting them use this tool. Ask them how they would like to design their learning and working environments. What happens in different rooms and how big a role do different objects, furniture and people play?

Are there other environments and rooms where you could teach or have meetings other than the classroom and meeting rooms? Dare to try!

Do you have any good suggestions on how to use a room for different activities? Take pictures and put them on the wall in the room. You might inspire others and give them new ideas on how to rearrange the room.

