Abstract. A common and current trope in academic libraries is that they serve as the 'intellectual heart of campus.' This is often used as a programmatic justification for the revival of 'Library as Place.' This revival has often taken the form of hosting author readings and research seminars, installing coffee shops and comfortable furniture, and otherwise attempting to make the library a Third Place for scholars. One must immediately ask, in the words of the UCSB Campus Architect: Is the library really "the symbolic heart of the campus?" Or, does it simply occupy "the most important site on our campus"?

This lecture presents initial results of a 2011 sketch map study that shows how contemporary Chinese undergraduates understand the importance of the library as an idea, but it does not necessarily follow that the library is a privileged Place.

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