



# AUBURN UNIVERSITY

---

## LIBRARIES

### Library Discovery Tour Or Ethnographers for an Hour

#### **Ethnography:**

Descriptive study of a particular human society. Contemporary ethnography is based almost entirely on fieldwork. The ethnographer lives among the people who are the subject of study for a year or more, learning the local language and participating in everyday life while striving to maintain a degree of objective detachment. He or she usually cultivates close relationships with “informants” who can provide specific information on aspects of cultural life. While detailed written notes are the mainstay of fieldwork, ethnographers may also use tape recorders, cameras, or video recorders.

~Concise Britannica Encyclopedia Online

#### **Today’s Mission**

Live among the inhabitants of the library on your designated floor. Wander, observe, listen and ask questions. What’s happening? What are people doing? What spaces do you see? What are those spaces used for? What’s strange and confusing?

Take field notes and/or fill in areas on the blank floor maps provided. Be sure to jot down any questions you may have about what you see.

Have a camera phone? Email pictures to [rumbajt@auburn.edu](mailto:rumbajt@auburn.edu)

**Meet in the instruction lab on the \_\_\_ floor (map on reverse) at \_\_\_\_.**  
**Be prepared to share your findings with the entire class.**