Library End of Year Review – 07

Shared Vision
To have the Library be both a strong physical presence on campus with excellent resources and services and an equally strong provider of resources and services to library users that do not physically come to the library.

Major Initiatives

1. Improve and Enhance the Physical Environment

2. Improve and Enhance Resources and Services to students and staff outside of the Library

3. Promote and deliver Information Literacy services across the campus and service area

Note: While we are continually working on all 3 initiatives, they are designed to be met in sequence. Currently we have substantially completed # 1 and will focus primarily on # 2 in the coming year.

1. Improve and Enhance the Physical Environment

This year was devoted to and dominated by the remodeling of the library. I am happy to report we have completed our first major initiative. We have hosted a tour by the Board of Trustees (August 9), an open house for faculty and staff (August 13) and another for students (August 28). All three groups had many positive things to say about the final results.

We began the year on the second floor with roughly half of the floor space as normal. We had a fair amount of flexibility as to the arrangement of services and materials and things, for the most part, went smoothly. At the semester break we moved down to the first floor and the use of space was more limited. As a result, I think that all aspects of our service suffered in small ways.

The construction itself had the usual noise, dust, delays, surprises and inconveniences. All staff members contributed to the best of their abilities and made every effort to minimize any negative impacts on students. We completed the process of returning over 20,000 materials that were in storage for the past year.

Some of the highlights of the project are:
- Moving the instructional class room from the second floor to the first floor so that it can be better utilized for library instruction
- Rearranging the shelving on the second floor so that it is more condensed and allows for a more clearly defined quiet study area
- Adding 3 additional study rooms and relocating them so they are more accessible and inviting
- Creating a cluster of “research computers” with viewing screen on the first floor to improve library instruction to classes that come to the library
- Relocating the Children’s Literature Collection to the first floor so that is closer to reference resources and the instructional classroom
- Redesigning the circulation area to reduce the barriers between staff and students requesting service
- Replacing the “sleeping lounge” with a well-lit active area
- Creating defined spaces for the college archives and storage

2. Improve and Enhance Resources and Services to students and staff outside of the Library

As noted we intended to address the initiatives sequentially and we made limited progress with this initiative in the past year as our major focus was on our first initiative to “Improve and Enhance the Physical Environment of the Library.” This initiative will be the primary area of focus for us in the coming year.

The two accomplishments we had with this initiative were adding online access to dictionaries to the Library Web Pages at the request of the Health Sciences Department and identifying and purchasing an additional online database (PsychARTICLES) for students researching in the area of psychology.

3. Promote and deliver Information Literacy services across the campus and service area

With a similar caveat to number 2 above, we have made limited progress on this initiative. We continue to offer SDV-119 Information Literacy on both campuses. We are investigating offering it online and also developing independent “content segments” that students can complete online.

Kate Hess, Library Coordinator on the IC campus, offered a teaching circle on Information Literacy this spring and Librarians offer courses through KCELT both during the year and Dog Days in August.

Genny Yarne and Kate Hess continue to be involved in the College 101 refinement and teaching and Genny has become the informal “mentor” of many first time teachers of the course. We have seen an increase in the number of classes coming to the library for orientations because Information Literacy concepts are taught College 101.

SUMMARY

We have substantially completed our first major initiative to “Improve and Enhance the Physical Environment of the Library”, but are just beginning our efforts to “Improve and Enhance the Resources and Services to Students and Staff Outside the Library” and to “Promote and Deliver Information Literacy Services Across the Campus and Service Area.”

Submitted by Arron Wings, Director
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