The Library at Work: Cultivating both Mind and Spirit

Resource Maximization

In response to user requests for increased electronic resources and additional study space, the library converted the majority of the print journal collection to electronic-only, saving a considerable amount of shelf space. Staff worked closely with the University’s Information Technology staff to develop a method for efficient and effective operations. This process included access to library collections, freeing up study space within the library for user seating, providing a flexible environment for collaborative study and event programs, and reducing overall processing and binding costs.

The new dynamic space takes the library beyond its traditional role of cultivating the student learning experience. In response to those needs, a February Town Hall meeting was held to identify areas or broad concerns that should be included in the planning process. As a result of the planning process, the Office of University Planning and Budgeting provided the library with a one-year term of our contract period and submitted our request for the new term.

Approximately 6,000 square feet of unused shelving was removed and 100 new user seats added. Seating options range from free small group study rooms, with overlook stairs, to grouped work, to wheeled tables and chairs for easy movement and configuration, high seat backvseating, and small round tables. This new user seating raises the total availability of library seats (study and computer) to 471, supporting the growth of both on- and off-campus students.

What’s New in Education & Outreach:

Clinical Services:
The year witnessed continued interest in the curriculum to a greater degree than ever. The Library’s medical history/medical-teaching library received medical historical exhibits. Medical librarians expanded a collaborative portfolio with the Worcester Institute of Medical History. Students, faculty, and visitors received demonstrations and received new services and resources available to users at this level.

Scholarly Communications

The library’s wide awareness of scholarly communication issues among faculty and researchers is most notable. The most recent scholarly projects included open access mandates. With Partnering with Faculty council, the library provided the research and background information necessary to bring the new mandate into being. Open access mandates are supported by the library, and included in the library’s list of researchers. The library also supported the development of a new Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) curriculum, and a new Doctor of Public Health program. In addition, all of the university’s research under one umbrella, bypass, and expression, and includes access to research. The library was launched in 2004 and grew significantly in FY2010. The repository’s metrics showed that it increased in FY2010 by registering 168,800 full text downloads as of April, 2010.

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The Library at Work:

Cultural Events

Event programming for FY 2010 included:

- Humanities in Medicine: Close Encounters: Clinical Decision Making, Biology Research, Pathology, and Medical Ethics. The seminar was attended by nearly 90 campus figures.
- Lonnie R. Timmons III: The Life and Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- The Library sponsored the first of an annual program to bring together the first of the library’s campus-wide series of lectures. The event was attended by nearly 90 campus figures.

Scholarship@UMMS

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Resources in the Library

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