

Report on the Faculty Library Survey

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FACULTY LIBRARY SURVEY March 2005

INTRODUCTION

During March 2005, a total of 187 surveys were mailed to all full-time and part-time faculty of Francis Marion University. Only 29% or 55 completed surveys were returned. Of these, 40 surveys were from the College of Liberal Arts, seven were from the School of Business, and six were from the School of Education. Following are results of the completed surveys.

STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS AND RESOURCES

Eighty-four percent or 46 of the respondents made assignments which required students to use the library. The other 16% or nine faculty respondents did not make Library assignments. Comments included "students must locate journal articles (current or bound volumes)," "students use computers in lab," "however, if they can get away with the internet, they will as much as possible" and "but I encourage use."

When asked what resources faculty expected their students to use, 18 respondents said periodical articles, nine mentioned databases, 11 mentioned books, and seven mentioned reference books specifically. Other notable resources were: "textbooks," "interlibrary loan," "computer lab," and "computers with geometer's sketchpad." One answered "national newspapers."

LIBRARY INSTRUCTION

Forty-nine percent or 27 faculty respondents indicated that they believe instruction given to their classes by Library staff to be effective, while 44% or 24 had never asked a librarian to meet with any of their classes. Comments included: "when I teach University Life," "it depends upon the librarian giving the instruction," when it is clearly associated with a specific assignment," instruction given by library staff has been exceptional," "I bring all my lab classes every semester," and "depends if professor gives some guidance to staff, so onus is really on prof, for staff to do a capable job."

REASONS FOR USING THE LIBRARY

Responding to an open-ended question, faculty listed various reasons for why they use the library, including for research, placing items on reserve, class preparation, to keep up-to-date, and for personal enjoyment. Twenty-six listed "research," two mentioned to keep abreast in their field, and six said they use the library for class preparation. One called the library "a credible academic resource venue."

ADEQUACY OF LIBRARY HOURS

Fifty-three or 96% of the respondents said that the library maintains adequate hours to ensure accessibility, while 3 or 5% said that it did not. Two suggested that the

library have more hours during breaks. One asked that the library open earlier on Sundays. Another comment was that "faculty should have key access for after hours."

OPINIONS ABOUT LIBRARY STAFF

Ninety-five percent or 52 answered yes to the question if library staff were helpful in meeting their needs. None of them answered no. Comments included: "extremely helpful," "need to upgrade Geometer's Sketchpad on all computers," and "It would help to know who specifically to ask for a specific need (ref. material, on-line access, etc.)." Another added: "Staff yes—some of the work study students are wonderful—others are rude and not helpful—I avoid going to the library if possible after 5:00 to avoid unfriendly library employees."

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

When asked if they had used Federal or State government documents in the Library, 16 or 29% said yes, while 39 or 71% said no.

AVAILABILITY OF LIBRARY'S RESOURCES

When rating availability of the library's resources in satisfying their needs in their academic area, 49% (27) said "excellent" and 47% (26) said "good." Only one respondent (2%) marked "fair" and one (2%) marked "poor." Comments in the excellent category were: "very responsive to requests for book orders (when \$ is available)," "having interlibrary loan is especially helpful," "ILL works great—can get just about anything that is published," and "very good collection in rhetoric and composition." In the "good" category, comments were: "would like access to more scientific journals," "microfiche Xerox machines could be updated," "I appreciate the new on-line and electronic resources my students can use," "wish there was a larger variety of current education journals," "more money should be allotted for purchasing books," "would like to see more graphic design texts," "we can always have more," "we need to know what journals we have full-text access to—lots of online databases but we still can't access the journal, the ultimate goal/need still hasn't been met," and "I would like to adjust some of the periodical holdings, but I realize they are expensive." The single comment in the "fair" category was: "am working to order up-to-date books in my area of study." A comment from the "poor" category was: "we carry only a handful of journals, but more importantly we do not carry the most comprehensive and one of the least expensive abstracting indexes on the market."

ORDERING LIBRARY MATERIALS

When asked if they were satisfied with the way materials are requested for their department, 91% or 50 said yes, and 2% (1) said no. In comments, three indicated that they did not know about the process of requesting library materials through their departments. Another commented: "Budget limits uncertainty whether requested books ordered."

GENERAL COMMENTS

Fifteen respondents chose to offer comments and/or suggestions which included: "so far, very successful in getting materials through interlibrary loan," "I invariably find the library responsive to my (and my students') needs," "very pleased with the resources and staff," "good job," "Thanks for all of your help," "great staff," "very helpful staff," "Keep up the good work! We are very proud of our library and its staff," "The acquisition process for books is too complicated," "I think the inclusion of televisions in the library is absolutely absurd. Students have access to news on the Internet. The money could have been used to purchase books." "TV's in libraries are a dumb idea." Suggestions included: "Raises to staff," "Please work on additional full-text online access, even at the expense of some print materials if necessary," and "Please allow me to renew books online."

The 2005 survey indicates that the faculty members who responded are overwhelmingly satisfied with the hours the library maintains, with the availability of resources, and with the assistance they receive from library staff. The respondents use the library heavily and expect their students to use a variety of resources in the library.