Indiana State University
2006 - 2007 Administrative Annual Report

Library

Vision Statement

View/Modify Vision

The following is your vision statement loaded from previous submissions. Some administrative units, but not all, may wish to revise their vision statements based on the direction of the University toward pre-eminence. If this pertains to you, then please make changes in the box below:

VISION STATEMENT Indiana State University Library is an innovative and creative partner in advancing the mission and strategic initiatives of the University. Specifically it: * provides a welcoming physical and virtual environment for users of all abilities and backgrounds * partners with teaching faculty to ensure student information literacy * engages in service and teaching events with partners and agencies in the greater Terre Haute region and surrounding counties * promotes interdisciplinary collaboration and uses technologies to enhance access to information * works with other libraries and agencies to preserve content of resources in all formats * evaluates data to measure satisfaction and continuously improve services to all library users (students, faculty, staff, and community users) * updates skills of staff to improve programs

Year in Review

Achievements

As you have heard, increasing public awareness of Indiana State University’s accomplishments is crucial to building student enrollment, influencing policy makers, and developing a place of pre-eminence in the Midwest. What do you consider to be your department’s accomplishments for the 2006-07 year that will contribute to this effort? (Please list in priority order and limit to no more than 8.)

1. Merge of Documents and Reference Service Desks By merging these two public service desks, users have a single point to get help in all information formats. Increased service hours for the documents desk from 35 hours to 92 hours per week. 2. Education Lounge An educational lounge was added to the teaching materials area. Changes to the area include painting the walls, adding lounge furniture, adding a browsable collection of popular young adult literature, providing a computer to access the online catalog, providing seating space for up to 40 persons, and installing a folding divider so that the area can be enclosed for meetings, events, or classes. 3. Inviting other student services to the library location This year saw much deeper conversation and planning towards using library space for the location of other student services for either primary location or satellite location. Although still not a “done deal,” it appears promising that the library may soon house the Honor’s Program, the Writing Center, the Audio-Visual Student Training Arm of the CIRT (ATRC), and a kiosk for the Career Center. Sharing space with these services adds a more convenient environment for students and may help retain ISU students. 4. Outreach to campus and community 7/22 Summer Honors Showed movies to summer Honors students 9/7 Extravaganza (Attendance was 5,141) The library faculty and staff welcomed back ISU faculty, staff, and students with lunch, prizes, music, and information about the library’s services presented in a fun carnival-like atmosphere. 9/30 & 10/14 Gaming Tournament 10/28 Champions gaming Tournament 11/3-4 Chess Tournament Authors and artists events 12/6 3rd Annual Fall Faculty Writers Salon English faculty: Mark Lewandowski, Doug Martin, and Aaron Morales. Two creative writing
Wechsler who spoke about the making of her film 4/18 Human Rights Day 125 students from Spencer-Owen Schools attended a panel discussion by 12 prominent community members of a book that they all had read, Tell the Truth and Nothing But the Truth, followed by film on freedom of speech, Footloose. 5. Research scholarships This new program recognizes excellence in student research papers. Monetary awards were given to one undergraduate student and one graduate student. 6. Reconfigured staffing to allow creation of electronics resources unit One librarian position and one library staff position were moved to create an electronic resources unit. With 40,000 plus electronic journals and databases currently held by the library and in anticipation of this number expanding in the future, this unit allows the library to be more quickly resolve problems that occur in the electronic environment.

Enrollment

What steps did you take this year to aid ISU in overcoming enrollment challenges?

Attracting new students 1. We send letters of welcome to new, incoming freshmen, assigning them to a “personal” librarian to give a human face to the formidable quality of a university library. 2. Events such as Human Rights Day and high school research days may well serve to plant the idea of ISU as a future destination in school children’s minds. 3. The library serves as a destination for tours with prospective students and parents. For example, this year we held a mini-Extravaganza for prospective students and their parents as part of the College of Education’s Teacher of Tomorrow program. Retention 1. This year saw much deeper conversation and planning towards using library space for the location of other student services for either primary location or satellite location. Although still not a “done deal,” it appears promising that the library may soon house the Honor’s Program, the Writing Center, the Audio-Visual Student Training Arm of the CIRT (ATRC), and a kiosk for the Career Center. Sharing space with these services adds a more convenient environment for students and may help retain ISU students. 2. Events such as Extravaganza, film and book discussion groups, and other events help students feel part of the university and allow them learning opportunities outside the classroom. 3. The library offers a café with a full menu, wireless connections, recreational type offerings such as movies or computer games on DVD, as well as extra curricular programming such as the chess tournament, knitting club, and computer gaming tournament. The library also reaches 7,000 students a year in research seminars and more than 21,000 one-on-one reference consultations take place each year.

Action Steps

Do you have any further progress you would like to report?

1. Wabash Valley Visions and Voices (WV3) update: Work on the O Miners Awake: Indiana Coal Miners, Their Families and Their Communities, funded by a Library Services Technology Mini-Digitization Grant ($18,072), began July 1, 2007. Field digitization sessions were scheduled for the Coal Town Museum on August 9, 2006; the Dugger Coal Museum on August 22-23, 26, 2006; the Clinton Public Library on September 16, 2006; Vigo County Historical Society on September 25, 2007; the Sullivan County Public Library on April 12, 2007; and the ISU Folklore Archives on April 18, 2007. Oral histories were recorded in Vermillion County on September 26 and November 28, 2006. Additional material is being gathered through the participation of the Sisters of Providence (St. Mary's Mine) and the Aydelotte Family of Linton, Indiana. Two undergraduate students and one graduate student are employed to digitize and create metadata for the project. With 2179 entries, WV3 is the second largest contributor to the Indiana Humanities Council's smartDESKTOP Resource Connection. On November 1, 2006, WV3 celebrated its first birthday with a searchable database of more than 34,000 items. 2. The library finished a third year of computer instruction for residents of Westminster Village given by library personnel and provided them with bi-weekly training sessions in their facility.
Assessment

What are two ways in which you evaluated the quality or effectiveness in your area last year? What changes did you make based on those assessments?

In November 2007 the library conducted a LibQUAL+(TM) survey. This survey is “a suite of services that libraries use to solicit, track, understand, and act upon users’ opinions of service quality. These services are offered to the library community by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). The program’s centerpiece is a rigorously tested Web-based survey bundled with training that helps libraries assess and improve library services, change organizational culture, and market the library (description from the LibQUAL+(TM) website). In addition, we held a LibQUAL summit (focus group) in April to further engage the ISU community in dialogue about quality of library service. We will continue this dialogue through September, gathering information from student groups, faculty, chairs, deans, and other administrators. After gathering the information we will incorporate it into a revised strategic plan that is being written concurrently. We will frame, prioritize, and implement the key issues, followed by an assessment of any changes. The reference department developed an instrument that will be used for evaluating all library instruction sessions taught by the librarians in the department. The online tool requests feedback from students and teaching faculty. Additionally, the department instituted a peer review process where library faculty members are paired up each semester to review one another’s teaching and offer means of improving the content and delivery of these brief but extremely important sessions.

Budget

As you know, ISU is facing significant budget challenges. Finding ways to overcome these while increasing efficiency requires innovation. How are you overcoming your budget challenges this year?

Printing and photocopying at the departmental level have been significantly curtailed over the past year. Nearly all interdepartmental communication is done electronically, via email or plog. Library staff members are printing less and using recycled paper whenever possible. We now use electronic invoicing for media purchases which not only saves paper but is more time efficient. We have saved $2000 in overall printing. Many staff members now share telephone lines. We have saved more than $7,000. We needed new desk furniture for one of our larger departments. We purchased 36 sets of cubicles with footrests and file trays for $200 per set, just pennies on the dollar of what new furniture would have cost. Since we purchased locally, no shipping costs were incurred.

Quality

Please provide 1-2 suggestions to increase the ability of your department or the University to meet the criteria above.

1. Funding is needed to remove a wall in the library which would allow the Writing Center and the ATRC to move into the library. Removing the wall would also allow a dedicated space for library events. As part of this same initiative, the southwest corner of the library needs painted and a library storage unit would need to be constructed. 2. The library needs 4 additional faculty positions to teach information literacy. This would free up other non-library faculty from teaching information literacy courses.

Feedback

This section is to allow you to share your ideas for enhancing enrollment, dealing with budget
and other challenges facing the university community.

Enhancing enrollment: Provide more engagement between local middle school students and the university. Showcase the laptop initiative by presenting local high school students who are attending ISU in the following fall with their laptop computers at a public forum where other students could see what incoming students get by attending ISU. Offer more flexibility in class scheduling to non-traditional students. Holding classes in the evenings and on weekends allows those students who work full-time to attend classes. In addition, perhaps support services could be offered one evening a week (financial aid, etc.).