

Assessment Summary

2001/02

Library Mission:

The mission of the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library is to further the mission of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg by providing information resources for teaching, learning, and scholarship and by offering the services and instructional opportunities required for using this information effectively.

Administrative Objectives:

1. Poynter Library will provide user services and instructional opportunities to support and enrich the education and community outreach missions of USF SP.
2. Poynter Library will provide print, media, and (in association with the USF Library System) electronic collections that support the curriculum of USF SP.
3. Poynter Library will provide appropriate technologies and services to support library research and classroom instruction.

Assessment Activities Supporting Objective 1:

Poynter Library's public service librarians believed that their traditional bibliographic instruction activities needed to be reassessed as students' preferences for electronic information over traditional print resources became more apparent. They decided to query faculty members to determine their perception of library instruction opportunities and how they could be improved. The questionnaire also asked pragmatic questions such as the desired length and locations for classroom presentations. Faculty members confirmed the librarians' perception that web resources should be particularly emphasized in classroom presentations and also supported the need for more individualized tutorials to assist students with library research. The emphases of Poynter Library's bibliographic instruction program were changed in response. Librarians were also assigned subject areas in which they would be particularly responsible for library instruction and collection development activities and outreach.

Librarians are committed to making Poynter Library a welcoming place for USF SP faculty and students as well as for community visitors. In support of that commitment, efforts were made to foster library exhibits and displays that would engage and challenge library visitors. Baseline data on library activities was compiled and 10 library displays or exhibits were mounted during 2001/02. Picture rails were added to provide display space for wall-mounted exhibits and a library exhibits policy was developed to facilitate future activities.

Assessment Activities Supporting Objective 2:

As USF SP's campus budget was expanded, plans were made to offer art history, develop graphic arts and visual communications programs, and to establish a general science and environmental sciences curriculum. Neither fine arts nor sciences (aside from the graduate Marine Science department) had been offered at USF SP in the past, so library resources in those areas were scarce. With an art historian and specialist in visual communications hired for 2001/02 and a graphic artist engaged to plan and develop a program in that area, art resources were an immediate concern. Existing library resources in art were inventoried, bibliographies and publishers' catalogs were examined, and the three new faculty members in the relevant disciplines were interviewed and encouraged to assist with collection development efforts. Thirteen new journals and 543 monographs were added to the library collection and the YBP approval plan profile was modified to reflect these new needs.

Anticipating new science programs and their significant impact on the library's material budget, the collection development librarian evaluated existing serial subscriptions. Approximately 100 microform subscriptions were found to be redundant because of the electronic availability of the journal titles and 103 print subscriptions were also canceled due to electronic access or changes in faculty concerns. These cancellations were expected to provide additional resources to support science programs when the cancellations took effect in subsequent years. Declines in subscriptions also made it possible to reassign a technical services line to public services to assist with rapidly increasing circulation and interlibrary loan activities.

Assessment Activities Supporting Objective 3:

In 2001/02, most library computers then in use had been purchased to equip the new library building when it opened in 1996. The old computers' speed and memory were inadequate to handle the large files required for electronic journals or to provide efficient response time to web searching. Library computers in public service areas and the library's network were evaluated to determine appropriate upgrades. All public service computers were found to be in need of replacement rather than upgrading and significant improvements to the library network were also required. These changes significantly enhanced computer use within the library for both public service and staff work stations.

Faced with the dual challenges of a growing faculty and their changing needs for technology, the Media Services department assessed existing equipment and technologies and its ability to meet these needs. Equipment was purchased to allow for basic AV equipment to be available within the classrooms rather than for the faculty to depend on deliveries by AV staff. Media Services also began incorporating digital technologies to supplement existing VCRs and overhead projectors. They assumed responsibility for the campus ID card auxiliary and it was hoped that these funds would supplement media equipment purchases.