

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN:

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LATEST FACULTY SURVEY

To learn more about faculty awareness and use of library resources related to teaching and scholarship, the Library Committee developed an online survey that was sent to all full-time and part-time faculty this past April. Highlights from the results of the survey follow.

The opening questions asked about the type of library resources used most frequently by faculty in their teaching and their own research. The top three resources used in their undergraduate teaching were textbooks, videos/DVD's/CD's and print journals in that order. For their graduate teaching, online databases were the most frequently selected as their first choice, followed by electronic journals. When asked to list the top three resources they used for their own scholarship or research, electronic journals were their first choice, with interlibrary loan and print journals being their second and third choices.

Faculty involvement is essential in developing a library collection that meets their teaching and research needs. Of the faculty who responded to the survey, 74% were aware of the library process to request the purchase of new materials, and 60% had requested the purchase of new materials. For those who had requested new materials, 83% reported that their request was met.

The survey also asked faculty where the library should place its collection development priorities. Meeting the course-related needs of undergraduate students was rated as the top priority by 52% of the faculty. Forty-six percent said the teaching-related needs of faculty should be the top priority, with 36% ranking the research-related needs of faculty as the top priority.

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ZAHNOW LIBRARY SUPPORTS SVSU ONLINE COURSES

With the inception of online course offerings in Fall 2006, the library has developed research support and provided library services to faculty and students within their online courses. Each semester all online faculty are sent an email inviting them to take advantage of library support. The email provides a description of the two levels of support so faculty can best determine what will be most appropriate for their students.

"Embedded Librarians"

The first level is intended for courses that have extensive research needs. It provides the highest level of library support as faculty can add the librarian to the online course as a "Teaching Assistant" or "Co-Instructor". The embedded librarian then adds a question folder, resource area (links to subject related databases, research handouts, online tutorials, ILLIAD-interlibrary loan web site, electronic reserves) and participates in course chat sessions when needed. Each embedded librarian checks at least twice a day for questions from students or faculty within the V-Space course.

For the 2006-07 academic year (the first year for online course support) a total of eight classes utilized the Embedded Librarian service. This year has seen a dramatic increase in the use of this service. The summer term included three classes and the fall term has an all time high of eighteen classes using four different librarians. Comments regarding this service have been positive from students and faculty. One student stated, "Thank you so much. You have been so wonderful sharing your skills. This has been such a wonderful experience on V-Space with the resources available to us. Again, you are so appreciated," And a faculty member said, "My students really appreciated your teaching in winter 07" when asking for services in the fall.

Library contact information

The second level provided to online faculty (used by classes with minimal research needs) is to include in their course the Reference librarian's email, the library web site url, interlibrary loan services information, and the toll free number to call the library's Reference desk. Although more difficult to track, this service has shown usage by students via email and phone calls to the Reference librarian.

Regardless of the level of library support, online faculty and students should be assured that library staff will continue to create, refine and assess online course support and use of library resources, services and assistance. For more information go to the library's web site and select the link "Online Course Library Support" or contact Anita Dey, Head of Reference Services (989.964.7094, adey@svsu.edu) or Scott Mellendorf, Reference and Off Campus Library Services Librarian (989.964.5052, mel@svsu.edu).

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Ensuring that the materials necessary to support new courses and degree programs are available when needed by faculty and students is a particular challenge for the library. The final survey question asked faculty if they would support the addition of a library representative on CAPC as part of the new course/new program development process. Sixty-six percent were in favor of library representation on CAPC.

The results of the survey (along with the many helpful written comments) have been reviewed by the collection development librarians, who appreciate the feedback and active involvement of faculty in the selection of library resources. We thank those faculty members who took time to respond to the survey!

-- Linda Farynk (lfarynk@svsu.edu)

LAPTOPS AVAILABLE FOR STUDENT CHECKOUT SOON

Ten laptop computers will soon be available at the Circulation desk for student use. Seven laptops will be available for student check out and three will be restricted to in-library use only. Standard software (MS Office) will be loaded on the laptops and wireless capabilities will be included. The laptops will check out for three days. The cost for replacement or repair will be the responsibility of the student.

For more information students can be referred to the Circulation desk on the library's first floor, 964.4240



Library student worker Samantha Eurich stands next to her sculpture "Reach" which is located on the first floor near the Circulation desk. Samantha made the sculpture in the SVSU "Introduction to Sculpture" class, winter 2007. [Photo by Darcy Hope]

NEW! ONLINE RESEARCH TUTORIALS AVAILABLE

A collection of interactive online tutorials is now available on the library's website. The objective is to introduce students to the research process, and to help them learn effective methods and techniques of information gathering, evaluation and synthesis.

Each tutorial stands alone. Students can follow along each guided tutorial or go at their own pace. Available tutorials include:

1. Developing a Research Strategy
2. Using Keyword and Boolean Operators
3. Introduction to CardCat Searching
4. Finding Periodical Articles
5. Evaluating Web Pages
6. Avoiding Plagiarism
7. Finding Peer-Reviewed Articles

The tutorials were created by Averill Packard, Reference Librarian. Look for more online research tutorials in the future.

STUDENT TECHNOLOGY CENTER NEWS

We are pleased to announce our NEW partnership with the Professional Technical Writing (PTW) faculty and students! Several PTW faculty members have taken up residence within the Student Technology Center (STC) space. The STC Staff will provide technology assistance for PTW students on software applications specific to their curriculum.

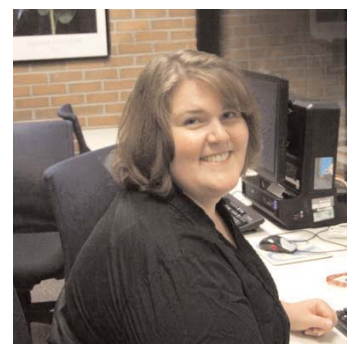
Look for the CREEPY display of computer security issues at the Cyber Haunted House and learn how to deter cyber attacks! Stop by for information on how to protect yourself and your computer files from becoming a victim of cyber malice! Sign up to win an iPod (students and faculty/staff), treat yourself to some candy, pick up a Cyber Security CD and join the frightening fun Oct. 20-31. Watch for details coming soon!

MeL ADDS NEW DATABASES

New databases are now available to SVSU library users through the MeL (Michigan Electronic Library) collection. Links can be found on the DATABASES A-Z list on the library's homepage. Many helpful and unique databases have been added. For a complete list of the MeL databases visit the Michigan Electronic Library at <http://www.mel.org> and click on the MeL databases link.

NEW STAFF MEMBER JOINS ZAHNOW LIBRARY

Jennifer Dean, our new Head of Collection Development and Acquisitions, came to us from the Northland Library Cooperative in Alpena. She holds a BMus from CMU, an MMus from Northwestern University, and an MLIS from WSU. Jennifer lives in Saginaw and plays bassoon with the Midland Symphony Orchestra. Contact information: Zahnow 413, extension 7092, email jldean@svsu.edu.



*Jennifer Dean
[Photo by Tammi Waugh]*