STUDENT TECHNOLOGY CENTER EXPANDS SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

The Student Technology Center is branching out! Plans have just gotten underway to set up a mini-lab near the Center on the second floor of Zahnow Library in Room Z235. The primary purpose of the mini-lab is to conduct 20-30 minute technology training workshops for small groups of students. The workshops will cover various technology topics based on some of the most frequently asked questions in the STC. Students will be able to attend the workshops on a drop-in basis.

The lab will be equipped with previously-used computers similar to those currently in the STC. The mini-lab will house 10 Gateway Profile PC's with 17" displays for student use and one instructor's workstation. In addition, the lab will be equipped with a Tektronix color printer available for limited use and a portable projection system.

The following applications will be installed on each PC: Microsoft Office (Word, Access, Excel, Powerpoint, Publisher) including Frontpage, Macromedia Studio 8 (Dreamweaver, Flash, Fireworks), Photoshop Elements, and Corel WordPerfect Office X3.

Other uses for the training mini-lab may include serving as a place where students can work together on collaborative projects that require the use of technology, and for small group training sessions offered by both the STC and other departments on campus. It will also function as an open lab during the STC's hours of operation. Scheduling instructions will be outlined at a later date.

Look for the mini-lab to be up and running sometime during the summer term and fully functional by fall 2006!

Tammi Waugh
Student Technology Center Coordinator

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HIGHLIGHTS AND COMMENTS FROM STUDENT SURVEY ON THE LIBRARY COLLECTION

In addition to a large number of comments about how out of date the books in the library collection are (see Director’s Column), a number of comments focused on finding articles and searching online databases. It’s clear that students prefer the convenience of electronic resources, but often need help navigating them successfully:

* "Make an easier process for finding the scholarly journals online. Every time I tried I always had to ask for help. I am a very independent person and I like to do things on my own, but the help was very useful. I do find your library very sufficient and very user friendly."

* "I have had trouble navigating through the online resources. I have had a hard time getting access to the online databases and having them offer enough information to complete class assignments. I do not live on campus, so I need to be able to access this information from home."

* "I think that a lot of students that go to the university don’t know how to use the library resources correctly. I think that as part of Freshman orientation, they should have to take a class where they learn to use the library. I have taken a few classes where we have had the instruction using the library and it has been very helpful, but there are still things about databases and interlibrary loan that I am not sure about."

Although this was a survey about the library collection, students nevertheless took advantage of the opportunity to give us feedback on just about every aspect of the library, telling us:

* "LONGER HOURS!!"

* "I think you need to put more computers on the other floors in the library so that you can look up books you need. Most of the computers on the 1st floor are usually full."

* "Interlibrary loan is fantastic, but it would be much better to have those things available on campus."

* "This would not help my school work, but I like seeing the increase in more popular titles and the cafe collection is a great addition."

The fact that so many students had so much to tell us shows that they do use and care about the library. I would like to thank all students who took the time to provide us with such helpful input!

-- Linda Farynk, Library Director
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