



DIRECTOR'S COLUMN:
Results of the Student Survey on the Library Collection

In late January, all students were asked to fill out a brief online survey designed to tell us how well the library collection is meeting their information needs, and to help us identify the areas in which the collection should be improved. The survey was developed in response to the university's strategic plan, Continuing Excellence: 2004-2008, which includes "Implement library materials and collection evaluation" as an Academic Improvement Initiative. Having conducted a faculty collection assessment survey last spring, we needed to find out how our students rate the library collection.

A total of 625 students responded to the online survey. The largest percentage of students who responded were seniors (27%) followed next by freshmen (22%). Thirteen percent indicated they were graduate students. In all, 36 different majors were listed by respondents, with the largest numbers coming from Education, Nursing, Social Work, and Psychology.

The survey asked students to rate library resources for completing class assignments and projects using a rating scale of Excellent, Good, Marginal, Inadequate, or No Opinion. Receiving the highest percentage of Excellent ratings were our online databases (36%) and electronic journals (28%). Nearly half (48%) of the students rated our book collection as Good, with 41% also rating our print journals as Good.

Students also were asked how often they use library resources. Coming as no surprise, 36% said they use online databases once a week or more, and 26% said they use electronic journals just as frequently. Books are used once a semester by 35% of the students, with 19% admitting they do not use them at all. Print journals are used once a semester by one-third of the students, and not at all by 26%.

(continued on page 2)

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

Celebrate!

National Library Week
Sun., April 2 - Sat., April 8th



Join library staff for
free ice cream and prizes
on Mon., April 3rd at 1pm



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(continued from page 1)

When asked how often they use other libraries to complete class assignments and projects, 40% said seldom or never, while 27% reported once or twice a semester.

The survey included text boxes for students to tell us the subject areas in which it has been difficult to find information, and to give us their suggestions for improving library resources. The comments we received are too numerous to count! However, the most frequent comment by far was how out of date the book collection is, perhaps best summed up by the students who wrote:

* *"When teachers ask us to use at least one book for a research paper, they like it to have been printed in the last 10 years. Some of the books in stock are pretty old, and I would probably question some of the validity of the material - especially of the science books."*

* *"Electronic resources are great; now update the books!!"*

For the most part, students were quite specific about the subjects on which they had difficulty finding information. All of those comments are being compiled and will be shared with the librarians who select materials for purchase in those subject areas.

As we did with the results of the faculty collection assessment survey, the results of the student survey will be posted on the library web site once all of the comments have been compiled into categories, which will make it easier for us to respond to and act on them.

-- Linda Farynk, Library Director
(lfarynk@svsu.edu)

LIBRARY COMPUTER LAB SCHEDULE NOW ON SVSU EVENTS CALENDAR

Starting in January 2006, the schedule for events held in the library's computer lab, Z111, is available via the SVSU Events calendar.

The events scheduled in Z111 include online exams, library research and instruction sessions and classes, meetings or activities requiring the use of software or online resources. To access the schedule for Z111 visit the SVSU Events Calendar and select the "Library" link from the menu on the right side of the page.

To schedule Z111 for library instruction, contact Kathleen Kroll, kmkroll@svsu.edu, (989)964-7054. To schedule non-library related events in Z111, contact Anita Dey, adey@svsu.edu, (989)964-7094.

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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. Everytime 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



THE EXHIBIT OF FACULTY PUBLICATIONS CONTINUES ON DISPLAY IN THE ROBERTA ALLEN READING ROOM THROUGH APRIL 17TH.

LIBRARY EXTENDS HOURS FOR FINAL EXAMS

Monday, April 17th - Thursday, April 20th	8am-1am
Friday, April 21st	8am-9pm
Saturday, April 22nd	9am-1am
Sunday, April 23rd	1pm-1am
Monday, April 24th - Tuesday, April 25th	8am-1am