

Spring 2013 Report

Library Services

Langara Library saw the fruition of several major initiatives this term as we continued to provide our ongoing services. Working one-on-one with students on their research or assignments and supporting faculty with course development are time consuming, yet very rewarding. It has been one year since the Library Term Reports began, and we hope that they have helped demystify what goes on within the big brown building.

Reference & Instruction Statistics

January-April 2013

Reference questions (all types):	7755
Research questions:	5203
Instruction classes and tutorials:	131
Number of students:	3409

Strategic Planning

Our strategic visioning project concluded with a Strategic Plan 2009-2013, which positioned Langara Library at the heart of a vibrant, engaging and exciting educational experience for students at Langara College and as an essential contributor to academic excellence at Langara College – a progressive academic library, fully integrated with the teaching, learning and research at Langara. The plan addresses five main themes which are also reflected in this issue's layout. C&M is currently producing a polished summary of our plan and operationalizing some of our goals will take place in the Summer Term.

Learning & life competencies: sharing unique expertise

In collaboration with course instructors we helped develop course content and a new online course, whose content will include electronic articles and streaming videos from the Library. In the Spring Term we also:

- conducted a literature review to inform a program's curriculum review
- developed story-specific resource guides for film arts scripts
- developed [course and assignment specific guides](#) for our website
- assisted instructors finding reading materials for their courses

Working with the Writing Centre, we presented several successful Citation Bootcamp workshops and co-taught a workshop on Research Papers.

Library Instruction: From Request to the Classroom

In the Spring 2013 semester, I collaborated with instructors on 21 course-specific research workshops for students in English and LEAP. For every 50-minute session I deliver, I dedicate at least twice as much time to preparation. After receiving a request for instruction, I review the class's assignment outline and identify a set of resources I feel best speak to the research requirements at hand. I compile these materials—subject-specific encyclopedias, databases, and more—into a web-based assignment guide. The guide serves a variety of important functions: it takes the guess work out of navigating the library's print and online resources (which can be daunting for those new to academia), acts as 'home base' for the in-person workshop, and provides students with a learning object to refer back to as they continue their research independently.

In lead up to the workshop, many instructors ask students to complete the library's online Introduction to Research tutorial, which provides a comprehensive overview of concepts related to academic research. When we meet in person, I introduce students to more specialized resources, demonstrate advanced search techniques, and discuss evaluation of sources more deeply. All of this is a highly collaborative effort, with the course instructor providing insights and feedback along the way. Instruction may be one of the more labour-intensive services we offer at the library, but I believe I speak for all of my subject librarian colleagues when I say that it is without a doubt one of the most rewarding. – by Lindsay Tripp, Librarian, Reference & Instructional Services

Innovative activities to engage students



Impressive paper folding skills

Engaging students in person and through our Facebook page, this spring we sponsored “open mic” events and interactive displays for Valentine’s Day and Freedom to Read Week. “Blind Date with a Book” was popular. Our second DeStress Fest at finals was a success, with fun events that included free refreshments, a social media haiku contest, and an origami lounge.

The Library’s entrance often serves as a theatre, with screenings of math movies (Goodwill Hunting, Pi, A Beautiful Mind) on Pi Day (3/14) or screenings to celebrate the DOXA Festival (Bobby Fischer Against the World, Baraka and more). We showcase student works, such as Design Formation installations and pop-up sculptures by Fine Arts students.

Content & resources: curated, seamless, dynamic

We welcomed many interesting new books & media to their new home at Langara, reviewed dated collections and are upgrading our media collection to improved formats by replacing VHS – either with the identical program or with newer, more compelling information on the same subject.

Copyright

During the Spring Term, we formally presented the Copyright Business Plan to the College; created a Library Copyright Working Group; finalized three policies and supplemental directives; presented copyright issues informally, taught a variety of copyright workshops and held drop-in sessions.

2012/2013 Collection Purchases

Databases *	\$ 154,501
Media (physical & streaming)	\$ 35,225
Journals	\$ 48,631
Books/Standing Orders	\$ 52,800
2012 Donation-in-kind	\$ 5,651

** Includes Safari Books Online contributions*

Interactive spaces: innovative environments for learners

The Library & Learning Commons spaces continue to evolve with a new welcoming entrance sign and improved displays for graphic novels, ESL collections, new books and current newspapers & magazines. Working as beta test partners, we help develop a discovery product for our collections and advocate for future features and enhancements that will benefit the entire Langara community.

Community connections: meaningful relationships

Whether during the course of our day or after hours, we enjoy working with our communities, both local (led a Library tour for 23 children ages 5-12 from the Jamieson YMCA kids club) and professional (developed a statement in support of Dale Askey on an Academic Freedom issue).

The team: organizational effectiveness

Helena Nest, a longtime employee who worked tirelessly in InterLibrary Loans and Media Booking retired in January. Richard Birkenes is now Library Technician, Resource Sharing.

Zeljka Loncaric again organized the Langara employee Sun Run team. 26 registered runners successfully completed the event, ranking 6th out of 49 in the education category.