

Stewart Library

Annual Report

2014/15 Academic Year

I. Mission

The Stewart Library's mission is to advance the teaching, research, and community service mission of Weber State University through the development of collections, personalized assistance in the use of library and information resources, and instruction on research strategies and tools.

We are committed to assessing our services and the relevancy and use of our resources, and to utilize assessment outcomes to improve those resources and services.

II. Ongoing Goals

The library has the following ongoing goals:

- 1. Acquire and make accessible the information resources needed to support teaching, learning, and scholarship at Weber State University.*
- 2. Provide patron-centered services in a welcoming, inviting library environment.*
- 3. Provide an instruction program that promotes information literacy skills in Weber State University students.*
- 4. Seek additional sources of funding to enhance library resources and services.*

III. Annual Goals - 2014/15

In support of its ongoing goals, annual goals are established. The following is an update on the progress made in meeting the library's 2014/15 annual goals.

Goal 1. Continue to expand access to electronic, print, and primary source information resources.

During the 2014/15 academic year, the library added approximately 4,000 volumes and more than 150,000 e-books to the collection. Such a large number of new e-books was possible due to a very generous offer made to the Utah Academic Library Consortium by EBSCO, a major e-resource vendor. Several additional new databases were also added.

To accommodate anticipated future growth in the number of physical volumes added to the collection, subject librarians continued to consult with faculty in their areas of responsibility. They will continue to identify back volumes of periodicals now available electronically that

could be withdrawn from the collection or relocated to remote storage. Duplicate volumes of low-use titles are also being withdrawn or relocated.

Excellent progress was made in providing access to the library's unique collections and primary source material. A significant accomplishment was completing the digitization of the student newspapers of Weber State University: 1917 - 2010. One of the most heavily used collections in the University Archives, the newspapers are all now available online and are completely searchable using CONTENTdm.

Goal 2. Implement a web-scale discovery service to expand access to the library's information resources.

A web-scale discovery service enables library patrons to do a search in the catalog and retrieve records for items in all of the library's collections and in all formats. The library's discovery service, which is called OneSearch, was implemented early in 2015 following a longer than anticipated RFP process. While the initial feedback on OneSearch has been positive, there is a learning curve to using it effectively. It will be especially important for students to learn how to develop focused search statements that narrow the results retrieved to a manageable number. Instructions on how to use OneSearch are available on the library's website. Effective search strategies will be taught in all library courses, and in subject specific and English 2010 sessions.

Goal 3. Complete the design of the library's new website to make it more intuitive and patron-centered.

Unfortunately, not as much progress was made on this goal as was anticipated. While the Drupal based infrastructure for the new site was completed, the proposed graphic elements and content design were controversial among members of the Web Development Committee and had to be extensively revised. Progress was further delayed by the recent resignation of the graphic designer and a replacement has yet to be hired. Another factor contributing to the delay is the amount of content existing on the current site that needs to be rewritten, updated, or deleted. Given the magnitude of their other responsibilities, it has been very difficult for the authors of the content to find the time to work on it. Work on this goal will continue during the coming year.

Goal 4. Revise the Information Literacy Exam (NTM 1504) to align more closely with LIBS 1704 and the information literacy program outcomes.

Significant progress was made on meeting this goal. The more than 300 exam questions were revised and are now aligned with both general education outcomes and information literacy instruction program outcomes. The revised exam was trial tested Spring Semester 2015, and will be fully implemented Fall Semester 2016.

Discussion on whether or not the NTM Department will continue to administer the 1504 exam is ongoing. If the computer literacy component of WSU's Computer & Information Literacy requirement is discontinued, there should still be an information literacy exam option for students, which would need to be administered by the library.

Goal 5. Seek additional sources of funding to enhance resources and expand client-centered services.

In 2014/15 gifts to the library totaled nearly \$350,000 and an additional \$39,000 was received in grants. In the coming year, we will continue to work closely with the Development Office to identify and cultivate new donors and with the Office of Sponsored Projects to explore additional funding opportunities.

IV. Library Goals - 2015/16:

In support of its ongoing goals, the annual goals for 2015/16 are:

- 1. Continue to expand collections focusing primarily on e-resources and primary source materials.*
- 2. Work closely with the Steering Committee, architects, consultants, and WSU project managers in developing a library renovation design plan, and preparing for the construction phase of the project.*
- 3. Complete the content layout and design of the library's new website to make the site more intuitive and user friendly.*
- 4. Acquire comparative data on student learning in all of the library's for-credit courses by developing and implementing a pre/post test.*
- 5. Improve the instruction provided in LIBS 1704 by completing the revision and updating of the textbook.*
- 6. Increase private and grant funding by five percent.*