LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Supporting the Academic Plan

Excellence in service is the overarching strength of the Library. Student and researcher needs are identified and the Library’s services are shaped to best meet those needs. The library offers a range of options for students and faculty to access our resources and a variety of services to support teaching and learning. These are presented to you under each of the six areas of emphasis in the Academic Plan.

Our Mission

Through the provision of excellent services and resources, we support the academic mission of the University by fostering an environment that stimulates teaching, learning and research.

Our Vision

As an integrated, user-focused organization, we continuously work to improve our resources and services.

“Information skills are fundamental to learning. Information literacy is a critical skill for a student’s success both at university and beyond …”

- Library Management Committee Retreat
July 15, 2014

Highlights

- 30% increase in visits to the Library
- 28% increase in students taught in information literacy classes
- 19% increase in research database sessions
- Completed 40 New Course Proposals
- Completed 5 Program Reviews & 1 New Program Proposal

It all starts with good service
Enhancing Student Success

- Provided one-on-one student support – at the Research Help Desk, through the Reference-by-Appointment service or by partnering with PhD students in the Sobey School of Business
- Built core competencies/skills for academic success through the delivery of information literacy instruction in collaboration with faculty, library research assignments and online instructional guides
- Identified student information skills deficits and targeted instruction accordingly
- Investigated ways that the library can support student success and identified best practices
- Created forums for bringing students together to provide comments and suggestions on library services and space
- Utilized Social Media (Blog, Facebook, Pinterest) – to promote library resources, services and events
- Reference Collection – consolidated and reoriented to make it more appealing to students. This freed up much-needed space, allowing for the addition of 8 group study tables with seating for 32 persons.
- New flooring and study carrels were installed on the second floor
- Improvements to signage on upper floors helped maintain quiet environments
- Introduction of a dedicated text messaging service allowed students to communicate problems or issues; staff were able to quickly respond
- Library Web Page: new design and layout was an opportunity to maximize usability and effectiveness of Library’s online presence; new FAQ page enabled direct response to users’ questions about library resources and services
- New Books – Display of recent acquisitions, as well as dedicated page on web site, served to highlight ongoing enhancements of the book collection

Enhanced student learning through excellence in teaching

- Made “partnering with faculty in support of teaching” a priority
- Promoted academic inquiry by connecting with faculty and students; ensured awareness of what’s happening on campus
- Actively fostered cross campus partnership (CAID, TESL, Writing Centre, Cont. Ed.)
- Enhanced our own excellence in teaching
Collaboration promotes service and access

We work collaboratively with other libraries to ensure the widest possible access to information, the most efficient delivery of documents, and the most cost-beneficial financing of such arrangements.

We also support reciprocal borrowing, common user cards, and open access to materials.

Linking Theory and Practice

◊ Continued to provide student employment, to ensure students develop employability skills as well as have access to financial support

◊ Provided individualized library liaison to graduate students

◊ Provided library liaison to co-op students during their work terms

◊ Community Engagement:

⇒ Hosted displays of the Jan Karski Holocaust Exhibit and Inuit Languages Exhibit from Canadian Language Museum

⇒ Hosted book launch and author reading on the publication of a history of teacher education in Nova Scotia

⇒ Hosted author reading as part of One Book Nova Scotia, an initiative to encourage reading and literacy across the province.

⇒ Hosted annual meeting of the Charitable Irish Society of Halifax; provided home for substantial tapestry related to Irish history

⇒ University Librarian served as president of the Canadian Library Association
Promoting research, creative activity and graduate studies

- Recognized the mounting challenges and opportunities facing scholarly communication; Adopted collaborative strategies for maximizing library resources and supporting research through initiatives such as the Canadian Research Knowledge Network and the Council of Atlantic University Librarians.
- Showcased faculty and graduate student publications by featuring scholarly achievements in the Institutional Repository.
- Supported open access through the Institutional Repository.
- Document Delivery – (free) timely provision of books, articles and other research materials not available at Saint Mary’s to our faculty and students.
- Information Literacy - Provided targeted instruction in library resources and academic research generally to thousands of Saint Mary’s students, across the disciplines.
- Data Sets – Continued acquisition of and instruction in the use of specialized statistical services; especially important to students in Commerce (e.g. Finance, Marketing) and Arts (e.g. Criminology, IDS).
- Collection Development – Ongoing, rigorous evaluation of the Library’s print and digital resources to insure that they meet the research and teaching needs of the Saint Mary’s community.
- Copyright – Created comprehensive online guides (for faculty and students) on fair use and other issues related to copyright in Canada; Hosted Copyright Committee comprised of a cross-section of faculty and administrators.

Building thematic clusters of teaching and research

- Developed, promoted and continuously evaluated library resources to ensure relevancy to academic programs.
- Developed and delivered graduate research seminars.
- Determined adequacy of resources as part of program reviews and new course proposals.
- Insured that Interdisciplinary Programs (e.g. Environmental Studies, Forensic Science, IDS) continue to be well served in the allocation of resources.
Libraries are dynamic, user-centred spaces

The Patrick Power Library is a congenial space, capable of supporting a variety of study styles. It caters to individuals or groups, for social study or quiet study, for Saint Mary’s and the broader academic community.

Another successful event!

Enhancing our international diversity

◊ Developed the library collection in areas that support and enhance internationalization
◊ Provided targeted library services to international students – e.g. an online International Students Library Guide was created to help introduce international students to the Library, its resources and academic research.
◊ Constituted an International Students Success group comprised of students from around the world. Over the course of several weeks, meetings were held to gather feedback on ways in which the Library could better respond to the unique needs of international students. Discussion centred around public service, access to resources, the web site and the building itself.
◊ Provided a welcome and inclusive study environment in which international students felt comfortable
◊ Information Literacy – classes were offered to Saint Mary’s TESL students as well as students enrolled in university-prepatory courses in other local language schools.
◊ Hosted visits and provided tours and orientations to administrators and faculty from universities in China and Vietnam
Institutional Repository

The University Archives worked with faculty to develop an open access Institutional Repository. This digital service holds research and teaching materials created by the University community, including archival images, theses, faculty projects, and University publications, as well as other special campus collections. It now contains more than 7,500 items.

The Archives also began receiving the papers of former Saint Mary’s professor and freelance archivist Ern Dick, which include material from the CBC archives and material related to his research into moving images in Atlantic Canada, some of which will eventually be added to the repository.

It has also finished creating a finding aid for the papers of Jane Shaw Law, which includes material related to her family, her art work, and her husband Tony Law, who was once artist-in-residence at Saint Mary’s.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATISTICAL PROFILE</th>
<th>2009/10</th>
<th>2010/11</th>
<th>2011/12</th>
<th>2012/13</th>
<th>2013/14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Questions at the Reference Desk</td>
<td>13,393</td>
<td>9,967</td>
<td>10,128</td>
<td>11,047</td>
<td>11,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students taught in Library Instruction sessions</td>
<td>3,218</td>
<td>3,534</td>
<td>4,084</td>
<td>3,862</td>
<td>4,961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visits to the Library</td>
<td>442,999</td>
<td>542,074</td>
<td>569,747</td>
<td>691,684</td>
<td>897,614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research database sessions</td>
<td>227,727</td>
<td>248,413</td>
<td>385,674</td>
<td>333,693</td>
<td>396,787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interlibrary Loans: Borrowing Lending</td>
<td>917</td>
<td>1,034</td>
<td>1,590</td>
<td>1,902</td>
<td>1,809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novanet Express: Borrowing Lending</td>
<td>1,429</td>
<td>1,685</td>
<td>1,603</td>
<td>1,704</td>
<td>1,278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Circulation</td>
<td>92,507</td>
<td>87,437</td>
<td>76,932</td>
<td>71,272</td>
<td>65629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monographs Purchased from Acquisitions Budget (excludes grants)</td>
<td>6,710</td>
<td>6,664</td>
<td>6,180</td>
<td>5,841</td>
<td>9843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volumes purchased per student</td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal Subscriptions Renewed</td>
<td>712</td>
<td>670</td>
<td>616</td>
<td>593</td>
<td>579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journals as % of Acquisitions Budget</td>
<td>27.1%</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Resources as % of Acquisitions Budget</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>54.5%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Print Titles Added to Novanet</td>
<td>8,135</td>
<td>7,955</td>
<td>7,938</td>
<td>7,019</td>
<td>12,956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Cost of Monograph</td>
<td>$73.74</td>
<td>$74.06</td>
<td>$71.74</td>
<td>$73.00</td>
<td>$80.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Cost of Journal</td>
<td>$398.70</td>
<td>$365.01</td>
<td>$383.55</td>
<td>$420.00</td>
<td>$436.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquisitions Budget</td>
<td>$1,118,880</td>
<td>$1,164,530</td>
<td>$1,369,721</td>
<td>$1,428,277</td>
<td>$1,468,440</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>