Library Instructional Activities Executive Summary 2014-2015

During the 2014-2015 school year, librarians engaged in many activities to teach students how to conduct research. These activities included conducting research sessions for students, collaborating with faculty, and promoting the library.

One of the most important instructional activities performed by librarians is teaching class sessions on request by faculty for students' research assignments, workshops, and orientations to the library services. Six librarians and two staff members taught a combined 169 sessions for all colleges during 2014-2015. In collaboration with faculty, librarians teach information literacy topics including how information is organized, how to search it, critical thinking, and documenting sources properly. The number includes orientations to the library and its services for Summer Bridge, Nursing, and high school groups. Included are thesis research and formatting workshops for graduate students in conjunction with the Center for Excellence in Graduate Education (CEGE). In total this instruction reached 4,191 students.

Librarians also teach graded courses. The library offered three sections of a course in information literacy, SSCI 3005, which has a combined enrollment of 76 students. Also, a librarian collaborates with Honors Program faculty in a team-taught course, HONS 3500, which had an enrollment of 21 students this Spring. Combined 97 students received graded instruction by librarians.

Reference librarians and staff fielded reference questions at the reference desk, in their offices, and through electronic chat, many of which are in-depth and lengthy one-on-one teaching sessions. From June 1, 2014 through May 31, 2015, reference transactions consisted of 3,731 in person, 282 phone, 702 online chat, and 575 email transactions, for a grand total of 5,290 transactions.

The library website is an important instructional resource in which librarians build instructional materials for classes and for students to serve themselves. Currently, the library website offers 55 tutorials that allow students to serve themselves 24/7. We also have built 112 "libguides" for specific courses, for departments, and for general concepts.

Librarians also promoted the library in several ways. They held an open house and participated in campus events such as Preview Day, the Tech Fair, and Summer Bridge. Finally, they reach out to users on Facebook and Twitter.