Libraries' Newsletters

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Illuminations, Fall Issue, October 2008

UCF Libraries

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Information Literacy Modules, developed jointly by the UCF Library and Course Development & Web Services, are now available as supplemental resources for use by faculty to help students learn information literacy skills. The UCF modules are designed to be easily integrated into the curriculum. Each module has an assessment component to gauge whether the student has learned the information literacy skill being taught. The assessment section is scored giving faculty the option to use it as a grade within their course or as further practice for students.

Check out the web site listed below for descriptions of the five current modules and suggestions for ways to implement them within your course. When you are ready to assign modules to your students, go to the section on “Getting Started” to begin. New sets of modules are released annually each summer. Should you have any ideas or suggestions for future module topics, please visit the “Feedback Form” and send us your thoughts!

Each module has 4 components: Overview, Content, Practice, and Assessment.

This example shows an interactive drag & drop that reinforces the students’ knowledge of what elements are needed to properly cite a journal article.

Each module varies in duration. Generally students can complete all 4 components in 20-30 minutes.
UCF departments, including the Libraries, continue to face substantial budget cuts, which started in 2007/08 and are continuing into 2008/09. The overall cut to the Libraries’ total budget in 2007/08 was 3% and the cuts so far in 2008/09 have been an additional 6%. More cuts are expected later this year.

Over the past several years, inflation in serials (journals and databases) has averaged 7-9% per year. The combination of a reduced library materials budget, coupled with this serials inflation, has reduced the purchasing power of the 2008/09 materials budget to 72% of the 2005/06 budget, a loss of $1.7 million in spending power. Without supplemental non recurring allocations which helped ameliorate this loss, the 2008/09 budget would have stood at 67% of the 2005/06 budget. The outlook for 2009/10 is uncertain, with the best case scenario being a steady state materials budget. However, with another year of serials inflation, this purchasing power will be reduced to 65% of 2005/06 expenditures, a greater than 1/3 drop in four years. If there are fewer non recurring dollars to reallocate into library materials, or if the budget is cut further, the reduction will be greater.

To meet this shortfall the Libraries reduced the number of books purchased to 14,300 volumes in 2007/08, down from 35,500 in 2006/07. Eighteen databases and 502 print subscriptions were cancelled and no new journals were acquired. Library materials funding was eliminated for Special Collections and University Archives. By the one-time reallocation of funds in 2008/09, the Libraries hopes to increase the number of books purchased.

Fortunately the UCF Libraries participates in a statewide buying consortium with the other state universities which provides electronic access to several million dollars of journal titles and databases. However, that funding is being impacted by inflation and some journal titles and databases previously available will be cancelled this year.

The Libraries have set aside limited funds to purchase books needed to support teaching and research. Please contact the librarian liaison assigned to your department to request needed titles. The liaisons are listed on the following web page: http://library.ucf.edu/CollectionMgmt.

In addition to restrictions on book purchases and journal subscriptions vacant faculty and staff positions have been frozen and operating expenditures have been significantly curtailed.

While hours in the Main library were reduced during the summer, normal hours resume for the fall semester.

Library Phone Numbers:

- Administration………………………………….. 823-2564
- Ask A Librarian…………………………………….. 823-2562
- Toll Free……………………………………. 866-271-7589
- Circulation Desk…………………………………. 823-2580
- Course Reserves………………………………… 823-5209
- Curriculum Materials Center (CMC)……… 823-2791
- InterLibrary Loan (ILL)………………………. 823-2383
- ROSEN Library………………………………… 823-8100
- Special Collections……………………………… 823-2576

Fall Library Hours

- Mon – Thurs. 7:30AM – 1:00AM
- Friday 7:30AM – 7:00PM
- Saturday 9:00AM – 7:00PM
- Sunday 12NOon – 1:00AM

Comments, questions and suggestions are always entertained! E-mail the editor: libnews@mail.ucf.edu