

Grinnell College Libraries Annual Report, 2016

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Progress on Strategic Plan Actions

Teaching and Learning

In alignment with ACRL's Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education, Grinnell librarians Julia Bauder, Kevin Engel and Phil Jones recommended in a study published in 2016 that research sessions providing general database profiles are best suited for lower division and introductory courses such as Tutorial and the first course in a discipline. The findings from this study also indicate that instruction sessions for upper division classes, seminars and MAPs reduce or eliminate time given to database demonstrations; rather,

In recent years, librarians have also noted an evolution in the ways our students and younger faculty are searching for information. These digital natives utilize information in ways that do not match well with more traditional Librarian-built information infrastructures (web site, Subject Guides, databases, etc.). This trend is apparent in an increasing number of requests for information that Grinnell students, staff, and faculty already have access to through the Libraries, but the path to that information is increasingly not in the workflow of these individuals. Accordingly, we have begun a pilot program of purchasing access to information at its source (usually direct from the publisher or a nonprofit aggregator like JSTOR or Project MUSE) rather than the traditional and less expensive commercial aggregator (like EBSCO and ProQuest). New examples of these kind of purchases over the past year include the 2017 Springer eBook Full Collection (we have purchased this collection every year since 2010), the Taylor & Francis Social Science and Humanities and Science and Technology Journal Libraries, and the Wiley Journal Full Collection. Additionally, we will our new integrated library system and discovery layer, which will go live late next year, will make it much easier to identify and locate research materials.

While we continue to expand the primary and scholarly resources available at Grinnell, our researchers will always need access to additional materials. Interlibrary Loan (ILL) is a service that allows our students and faculty to borrow items from other libraries, giving Grinnellians access to the holdings of maj(s)-6.1mail

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nearly 10% over the prior year. Library staff have partnered with Accessibility and Disability Services staff and Academic Support Assistants to make course readings on e-reserve as accessible as possible to students with disability accommodations.

Grinnell Learning Place

The library staff continues to try to find low-cost ways to improve Burling and make it a more conducive research environment for current students and faculty. Upon his arrival at Grinnell, the new Librarian of the College, Mark Christel, observed many of the research sessions offered by the librarians. He noted that many classes were too large for the small library teaching spaces, in some cases classes needed to be split and placed into two adjacent rooms. He prioritized the creation of a larger classroom space within Burling that could accommodate those larger classes, facilitate more interactive pedagogical approaches, and feature advanced projection options that could better serve the needs of groups like Special Collections.

While Burling is nearly at capacity, the library staff shifted large portions of the stacks and worked with the teaching faculty to identify bound journals that could be removed from the building because they were now available online to create the space we needed for the classroom. This is a phased project, but we now have a new teaching space on Burling second floor that will be used by classes this Fall. Whenever classes aren't using it, students will have a new study area featuring comfortable furniture that can be configured to suit their needs and mobile whiteboards for collaborative work. In a future phase, we hope to enclose this space and also create some muted group studies in an adjacent area.

The other major enhancement to the Libraries this year was the addition of a video production studio in Burling Library. The production studio is supported by staff from the Digital Liberal Arts Collective (DLAC). The space and its staff represent a very valuable resource for students and faculty interested in creating media projects to incorporate into their teaching and research.

Alumni Engagement

The staff in Special Collections and Archives has continued and expanded their

I. Libraries Statistical Comparison (2015-2016 and 2014-2015)

Grinnell College Libraries Statistics	2015-2016	2014-2015
Gate count (typical week)	3,854	4,097
Total circulation (books, CDs, DVDs, etc.)	31,402	37,524