



**McDermott Library**

**The University of Texas at Dallas**

## **Information Literacy and Instruction**

### **Statistics for 2005-2006**

The Information Literacy staff wants instruction on the use of the library services and collections to be fully integrated into the curriculum. In addition to receiving basic instruction at the beginning of their college career, the program strives to develop the student's skills once a major is selected.

The freshmen experience program and library instruction has changed during its brief history. Prior to 2004, the Library provided a personal session for small groups (approximately 20 students) that included a general tour and hands-on instruction on the use of several electronic resources including how to find books and articles on a subject. The instruction was offered in Rhetoric 1101 and Rhetoric 1302 courses.

During the fall of 2004-2005, the Library was advised that the Rhetoric instructor team was not interested in having the students participate in the tour portion of the information literacy program for Rhetoric 1101.

During the fall of 2005-2006, the Library component was added back into the Rhetoric 1101 sections, but the configuration was somewhat different than the past. The instruction included a lecture and a tour. No hands-on environment was included. The library presented 12 information sessions over two days, September 27 and September 29<sup>th</sup>. September was an optimum time for the students because by then they were more familiar with the campus and have realized the need for research. The bonus for the Library was that all 1,200 students were required to take a tour. In the end, librarians and staff from several library departments teamed up and offered 136 tours.

September 2005 saw an all time high for library instruction. 2,052 students and faculty attended 89 library sessions. Attendance continued in this way for the fall semester bringing many students, faculty and staff to learn about the library research resources McDermott Library has to offer.

In 2005-2006, 332 classes, 25 tours, 36 orientations and 57 research sessions were provided with a total attendance of 9,269 students, faculty and staff. The program increased 168% from the previous year of 198 classes, 74 research sessions and tours and 44 orientations. The total number of instruction hours for 2005 was 460.45 up 40% from the previous year.

## **Information Literacy and Instruction**

The liaison librarians at McDermott Library offer information literacy sessions to the faculty, staff, and students of the University. These sessions are designed to introduce users to the resources available at the library and to assist in the development of research strategies that will enable users to pursue their research goals or other information needs. Liaison librarians teach sessions that introduce students and faculty to McDermott Library and show them how to navigate various library services. The sessions can reduce the anxiety many users feel when faced with using electronic resources, locating materials on the shelves, or asking for help. Information literacy improves the user's research skills and teaches them to locate the information needed.

The librarian customizes the session to best fit the course requirements or assignments. A general library instruction session includes an overview of the library's services and collections, an introduction to resources including our catalog, and a demonstration of periodical indexes and printed and electronic resources appropriate to the topic and level of the class. The session includes a discussion of library research skills and search strategies. Advanced instruction sessions might include conducting a legislative history, researching a market for a new product, or a thorough literature review for a thesis or

dissertation. The reference staff strongly encourages faculty participation in the information literacy instruction session process.

### **Campus Awareness of Instruction**

In the past five years the Information Literacy and Outreach Department has tried many initiatives to make the UTD community more aware of the instruction and research resources available at the library. A steady increase in the campus awareness of instruction resulted from the variety of marketing methods used by the librarians. Although the awareness is a positive for the Library, the need for integrating instruction into the curriculum is stronger than ever.

Today's student is a lifelong learner. The need to continue research and learning beyond the campus is even more prevalent. Library instruction has worked well with faculty in trying to serve this need. However, a credit course that would teach how to locate, evaluate, and use information is warranted.