



# McDermott Library

The University of Texas at Dallas

## Information Literacy and Instruction

### **Statistics For 2005-2006**

This 2005-2006 fall the library component was added back into the Rhetoric 1101 sections. The method was different from in the past. There were about 60 sections and an estimated 1200 freshman students. The library was invited to present six information sessions per day during two days, a total of 12 sessions. The sessions took place on Tuesday, September 27 and Thursday, 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 part that seemed like a bonus is that all 1200 students were required to tour the library. A schedule of library tours was offered on the Information Literacy calendar. In the end librarians and staff from several library departments teamed up and offered 136 library tours to almost 1200 students.

September 2005 saw an all time high for library instruction. 2052 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 there were 332 classes, 25 tours, 36 orientations and 57 research sessions with a total attendance of 9269 students, faculty and staff. This was an increase from the previous year of 198 classes, 74 research sessions and tours and 44 orientations. During 2004-2005 orientations and tours were combined but starting with 2005 they were counted separately. The total number of instruction hours for 2005 was 460.45 up from 328 hours 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. Instruction sessions introduce students and faculty to McDermott Library and teach them how to navigate various library services. It 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 instruction librarian customizes the session to best fit a course's requirements. 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 also 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 through 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. Many of these marketing attempts have been successful as shown by the steady increase and campus awareness of instruction. Although this is positive, it has also revealed a need for integrating instruction more fully into the curriculum. Today's student is a lifelong learner, the need to continue research and learning beyond the campus is ever more prevalent. Library instruction has worked well with faculty in trying to serve this need. However, a library credit course or curriculum integration would more seamlessly serve students.