

Librarians on the Loose

Librarians on the Loose is an outreach program designed to reach students who may not otherwise be regular visitors of McDermott Library and to promote library services to these students. Developed by the reference staff of McDermott Library, this program began in January 2004 and has been a success. Twice per week on average during the Fall and Spring semesters and once per week during the Summer librarians go “on the Loose” setting up temporary booths around campus. Taking advantage of wireless internet technology, librarians are able to access and demonstrate databases to students while “on the Loose.” Informing students of our database products has perhaps been the most valuable byproduct of the program. Many students are unaware of library resources which can aid them in their research efforts immensely. Librarians also inform students of other services and library policies and are able to recommend items from the library’s collection which fit their research needs. Informational handouts and flyers are also made available to students. So far librarians have been “on the Loose” in the Student Union building during lunch hours when many students congregate, in Green Hall, in Berkner Hall, the University Bookstore, and even on the fourth floor of McDermott Library itself. “Librarians on the Loose” has succeeded in contacting and assisting hundreds of students directly since the program began. Reference librarians are currently reevaluating the program to improve services offered while “on the Loose” and are scouting for other locations on campus where the program can be offered.

