The Academic Library Partnership with Faculty: The Case of James White Library at Andrews University

Silas Olivera
Andrews University, silas@andrews.edu
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Objective

To determine to what extent (level) the services offered by JWL integrate the library to its community.
Rational/Importance
What affects image?

Image is affected by:

- Level of Integration
  - Collaboration
  - Embedment
  - Partnership
Method

- Survey with 10 librarians
- List of services offered by the library
- Identify the level of integration
### Results (1)

**SERVICES OFFERED BY JWL**

*(According to the 10 librarians)*

- Provides materials
- Provides access
- Provides different spaces
- Collection development liaison program
- Library instruction (Info Literacy)
- Interlibrary loan and MelCat
- New faculty orientation
- New books alert system
## Results (1)

### SERVICES OFFERED BY JWL
(According to the 10 librarians)

- Software workshops
- Renew books online
- One-on-One consultation
- Ask-a-Librarian online
- New student orientation
- INFS120 Computer Lab
- International student orientation
- Access to technology
Results (1)

SERVICES OFFERED BY JWL
(According to the 10 librarians)

- Access to software
- Knowledge curation
- Ready reference
- Classrooms
Collaboration

- To labor together.
- To work jointly with others in an intellectual endeavor.
- To cooperate with or assist.
- To cooperate with an agency with which one is immediately connected.

- Passive/Reactive attitude
- Service Orientation
- Assist
Definitions/Concepts

- Embedded
  - To fix into a surrounding
  - To make something integral part of …
    - Being part of…

- Onsite (setting)
- Included
- To join
- Interaction
Definitions/Concepts

- **Partnership**
  - ...having specified joint rights and responsibilities.
  - One associated with another in a joint effort.
  - One of a couple who dances together.
  - One that shares in possession of something with another.
  - One of two...associated as joint principals in carrying on any business...

- Pro-active attitude
- In equal status and commitment
- Shared responsibilities
- Part of the design process
- Work side by side
Results (2)

20 Services listed

Collaboration: 17
Embedded: 3
Partnership: 0
Results (2)

20 Services listed

- Embedded

- Library Instruction Classes
- Collection Development Liaison
- INFS 120 Class
Discussion

Librarians must cease being at the service of faculty. We need to adopt a non-service approach in order to be recognized as equals in providing learning opportunities. (Meulemans & Carr, 2013)

Effective instruction requires the professor and librarian to work together as partners to achieve a common goal. (Meulemans & Carr, 2013)
Discussion

Libraries encourage a culture of sharing, cooperation and collaboration, …by contrast faculty culture is generally more isolated and proprietary. (Christiansen, Stombler and Thaxton, 2004, p. 18)

Faculty may not consider librarians as full partners but instead, as professionals; and viewing their relationships with less importance than librarians do. (Phelps and Campbell, 2012)
Discussion

When a librarian’s professional value system is centered on being partners in the teaching/endeavor, her actions fundamentally change. (Meulemans & Carr, 2013)

Faculty may not consider librarians as full partners but instead, as professionals; and viewing their relationships with less importance than librarians do. (Phelps and Campbell, 2012)
Discussion

Because higher education places librarians in a subordinate role within the institutional hierarchy, even if they have faculty status equal to teaching faculty, they may not believe they are empowered to take the lead in instituting an information literacy program. (Meulemans & Carr, 2013)

...If librarians continue to treat what we do as a service, then we will continue to be treated as service providers. (Meulemans & Carr, 2013)
Discussion

Without some sort of guiding principles, a librarian can become an automaton that serves the needs of faculty. (Meulemans & Carr, 2013)

Even though it is disciplinary faculty that initiate the context for library instruction, that does not diminish the necessity of librarians taking equal, and if necessary, primary agency in the construction of the learning environment for students. (Meulemans & Carr, 2013)
Conclusion

James White Library needs to include in their mix of services those that are developed through real partnership with faculty in order to increase its value and improve its image which will result in greater support, thus strengthening the library’s role in accomplishing the university’s teaching and learning mission.
References


THANK YOU

HAVE A NICE DAY