

7. LIBRARY AND LEARNING RESOURCES

DESCRIPTION

The Mohegan Community College Learning Resource Center provides books, periodicals, and other print and nonprint materials to implement the curriculum, to aid instructors in teaching, and as much as possible, to provide recreational and cultural materials. Equipment and limited production services are also provided to meet the users' needs.

The LRC emphasizes library instruction by providing a variety of programs for groups and individuals. A one-credit course on library research has been developed and will be offered soon. The LRC staff regularly offers three levels of library instruction and also prepares customized programs. During 1991-92, forty-five sessions of library instruction were conducted. This service was used by thirty-six faculty members. The LRC seeks to create a richer learning environment in which students learn to do independent study and use individualized instruction. The ultimate goal is to instruct and prepare users to be life-long learners.

The LRC attempts to provide comprehensive support of the academic mission of the College and the needs of the community, as well as integrating its instructional program with the teaching orientation of Mohegan Community College. The resources of the LRC are currently available during the hours of operation: Monday - Thursday, 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. and Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. The resources include books, periodicals, audio-visual materials,

microfilmed periodical collections, indexes, and pamphlets, as well as newly updated automated services which access various database indexes and facilitate interlibrary loan services. The College has installed a satellite dish funded by a gift from the MCC Foundation. The dish is linked to the LRC audio-visual area which allows the taping and viewing of video instructional supplements and meets additional institutional needs.

The College is very proud of the recently (1988-89) renovated LRC space, the most significant improvement to the physical plant during the last five years. The half million dollar project provided a 10,000 square foot area which houses the College's print and non-print collections in reference and circulation areas, and five offices which are utilized by the support staff. Additionally, there are six special purpose areas: the Tutoring Center spaces, the Group Study Room, the audio-visual preview area/language lab, a computer/typewriting room, a microfilm/periodical room, and the Center for Teaching. There are 91 seats in the general study areas. An additional 67 seats are located in the special purpose rooms. A reserve section of materials is maintained at the circulation desk. The LRC also supports the College's audio-visual needs, providing access to equipment as requested, and the taping and copying video and audio cassettes.

Current (1991-92) figures show library circulation reached an all-time high of 12,239, a 27% increase from 1990-91 figures. According to the LRC database, there are 6,411 registered patrons. There are 29,001 books, 315 periodical titles, 2,020 audio-visual

items, 73 titles on microfilm, and an estimated 5,000 pamphlet items. The figure for interlibrary loan transactions also reached an all-time high 1,748, indicating that this service has doubled during the past two years. Forty-two faculty members used the reserve service and put a total of 554 items on reserve.

Off-campus sites (the Naval Submarine Base at Groton, CT, and Waterford High School) are serviced through formal arrangements which have been made with three area public libraries; Groton Public Library, Waterford Public Library, and the Public Library of New London to offer accessible services and resources to the Mohegan populations taking classes at these locations. Limited services are also locally available at the Otis Public Library in Norwich, the University of Connecticut at Avery Point, the Ledyard Public Library, the Waterford High School Library, the Connecticut College Library, the Mitchell College Library, and the Norwich and New London law libraries.

During the 1990-1991 year, total library expenditures equalled approximately 13% of the school's operating budget. This stands as additional evidence of the strength of the institution's support for the LRC, and is significantly higher than the 6-9% as put forth in the standards approved by the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) and the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). Additional fiscal support is provided through institutional student labor funds which supplement staffing needs.

The Library is currently staffed by a full-time Director of Library Services, a full-time librarian, and two full-time librarian assistants. There is additional personnel support in the form of student workers. Numerically, current staffing is deemed inadequate; there is no evening reference librarian, and according to professional guidelines, (the standards approved by the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) and the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) three to five professional full-time staff are recommended (we have one), and an overall staffing range of from ten to eighteen (we currently have four) would be ideal. Obviously, the lack of adequate staffing directly impacts the hours of operation and the availability of services.

The automated systems linking the Mohegan LRC with libraries throughout Connecticut, the On-Line Computer Library Center (OCLC) and Libraries On-Line System (LION), were both updated during the past year. The operations procedures for the OCLC were changed; the staff participated in numerous training sessions; and new telephone lines were installed. In order to mitigate response time, the LION system migrated from the Data-Phase system to Dynix. The Dynix system also offers Public Access Catalog (PAC) connections, and Mohegan installed two terminals in January, 1992 allowing PAC to replace the current card catalog.

The ReQuest database, now in its sixth edition, continues to be a very popular research tool for both faculty and students. Included in the database are the collections of 130 libraries in

Connecticut. The Expanded Academic Index was installed this past year; it includes the indexing of 1,500 general and scholarly journals and periodicals. The LRC is a member of the Southeastern Connecticut Library Association (SECLA), and the Council of Librarians of Connecticut Community-Technical Colleges for resource sharing and information exchange.

Faculty and staff are regularly notified of new acquisitions (a list is published at least once a semester). Requests for periodicals are generally made at the end of each semester, yet individual or special requests from faculty or staff are handled throughout the semester. Faculty, staff, and students are generally surveyed once a year and are asked to help assess policies, collections, and services.

The attractively renovated LRC is the integral learning support and instructional component Mohegan Community College possesses. According to a faculty survey, the much-used facility provided satisfactory academic support, while providing additional aesthetic and informational opportunities. While currently striving to meet institutional needs with existent staff, the faculty overwhelmingly expressed the opinion that the LRC is currently understaffed and therefore cannot be open as many hours as is desired. The addition of another full-time librarian would allow expanded coverage; additional hours during the evenings and some Saturday availability. Other comments noted the lack of adequate quiet study area space, and another faculty member suggested that the faculty and staff be more actively encouraged to

use the services at the LRC. The proposed building plans will probably include student congregation/study areas which will alleviate current crowding conditions in the LRC at certain times of the day.

An on-line cataloging module provided the current (April 1, 1992) listing on the library's book and videotape collection and displayed breakdown of the works according to the Library of Congress classification system. The current on-line listing accounts for only 85% of the total collection, yet includes the more recent acquisitions.

A proportional display of the library's holdings by LC (Library of Congress) classification listing (when compared to total holdings), and an accompanying analysis of enrollment in college programs follows:

LC CLASSIFICATIONS/GROUP DESCRIPTIONS	COUNT	% OF COLLECTION
LC Class A/General Works	179	1
LC Class B/Philosophy, Psychology, Rel.	1703	6
LC Class C/Aux. Sciences of History	479	2
LC Class D/History	2115	8
LC Class E/History	1863	7
LC Class F/History	471	2
LC Class G/Geography	476	2
LC Class H/Social Sciences (Econ., Soc.)	4409	16
LC Class J/Political Science	753	3
LC Class K/Law	615	2
LC Class L/Education	1103	4

LC Class M/Music	268	1
LC Class N/Fine Arts	422	2
LC Class P/Literature, languages	5169	19
LC Class Q/Science	1601	6
LC Class R/Medicine	4746	17
LC Class S/Agriculture	72	
LC Class T/Technology	304	1
LC Class U/Military Science	93	
LC Class V/Naval Science	12	
LC Class Z/Library Science	621	2

CURRICULUM SUMMARY

PROGRAMS	ENROLLMENT	% OF TOTAL ENROLLMENT
Accounting - CR	130	4
Accounting - TR	55	2
Business Administration - CR	176	6
- Public Administration Option		
Business Administration Option - TR	108	4
Childhood Studies Option	1	
Criminal Justice	101	3
- Corrections Option	18	1
- Transfer Option	61	2
Drug/Alcohol Rehab.	22	1
Early Childhood Education	120	4
General Studies	342	12
Human Services	109	4
Industrial Mgmt/Supervision	5	
Law Enforcement	1	

Liberal Arts & Sciences	659	22
L.A.S./Fine Arts	12	
Marketing - CR	20	1
Marketing - TR	10	
Nursing	511	17
Non-Degree	383	13
Office Administrative Careers		
- CR	1	
- Exec. Secy. Option	25	1
- Word Processing Legal Option	26	1
- Word Processing Business Option	29	1
- Word Processing Medical Option	15	1
Travel and Tourism	13	

APPRAISAL

The Mohegan Community College LRC offers comprehensive library and academic support services to the entire community. The physical space on the main campus is the College's most attractive public area, and the newly automated systems provide access to information and resources in a modern and efficient manner. The LRC is viewed as an integral academic resource component by all curriculum. The staff maintains a cordial and helpful relationship with students, faculty, other professional staff, and the members of the Mohegan community.

Recent administrations have shown regular, strong financial support for the LRC's needs, activities, and programs. Mohegan's institutional commitment to supporting the LRC is seen in recent expenditures. In 1989, over \$100,000 worth of new equipment for

the renovated LRC was purchased with bond and school funds. This was money above and beyond the appointed operating budget amount. Over the past three years, the school has additionally supported the LRC from the operating budget at levels beyond the state's formulated recommendations.

Funding limitations, however, prohibit the complete staffing of LRC positions, and hours of operation are limited. Student and community needs would be better met with extended evening and weekend availability of the LRC's services. The maintenance of timely automated files and services needs to be augmented with additional staffing hours as well. Although the renovated LRC spaces are physically and aesthetically pleasing, we still need additional study spaces (carrels), an enlarged area designated for quiet study, and additional office and administrative spaces for service support and processing.

It is somewhat difficult to assess the comparative adequacy of the collection in terms of academic programs due to the interdisciplinary nature of some curricula. Also, it is hard to determine the relative age of the respective collections without a lengthy review which is currently prohibitive in terms of time, personnel, and cost. However, a plan should be developed to review the collection.

According to the Director, the current collection is generally balanced when viewed with the program enrollments in mind. An area that is under-represented is the Science group. Some listings in areas of seemingly equal representation may actually contain dated

volumes which would partially invalidate the apparent adequacy in those areas. The Director suggested that the adequacy of current holdings in certain areas of Social Science and Nursing may be affected by this timeliness factor.

PROJECTION

The Mohegan Community College LRC plans to continue its support for the College's mission. The current, comprehensive library and academic support services will be available. The College's new programs will be supported with appropriate resources as designated. The newly installed satellite dish and usage policy will provide opportunities to enhance instruction; teleconferencing activities will be considered as an additional service to the Mohegan community, as well as a revenue generating activity. Increased funding will be sought to augment hours of operation and adequately support current services, and space renovations or additions will be considered in order to better provide for our students' and community's needs. The automated systems will regularly be reviewed and updated to maintain and insure technical validity. A review and analysis of holding should be undertaken by the various disciplines, with the assistance of the LRC staff. The impact of the merger on the LRC will also be studied.

Projections for 1992/93 include the following major objectives which are specified in the College's Institutional Plan:

- 1) Encourage more faculty involvement in Library Instruction Program.

- 2) Develop plans and policies to make utmost use of the satellite to support classroom teaching as well as other institutional purposes.