

Librarian Commentary on Survey Responses

The numbers listed refer to the particular question asked.

7. If you have not used the consortium loan or the interlibrary loan services in the last 12 months, please indicate your reason(s):

Very few people are not using these services. Those who do not use it indicated that they use the materials located in the library, or visiting other libraries.

11. Which of the following library instruction classes would you attend if you had the opportunity (select all that apply):

There is some interest in instruction using specific resources, or doing research in a specific field. The library will look to address these needs both by offering instructional sessions, and by creating online tutorials.

13. What print and electronic titles would you recommend the library purchase/subscribe to?

There were multiple requests for "Liturgical Ministry," which we are pleased to be able to add thanks to a gift from Sister Catherine Dooley. There were multiple requests for "National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly," which is available in the CUA Dufour Law library. At this time, we do not plan to buy a second subscription. Requests were also made for: Commonweal, Heythrop Journal, Thomist Online, Osservatore Romano, and the OED online- all of which we have. Several other titles were suggested, and will be kept in mind for any future subscriptions, but budget constraints will continue to limit our ability to add new titles.

22. How often do you visit the library on weekdays, evenings and weekends? If you answered "Seldom" or "Never" to any of the last three questions, please indicate the reason(s) (select all that apply):

91.8% of respondents indicated that they have access to our online resources from home. Most people responded that campus is too far from home to come out on evenings or weekends.

23. Do you find the borrowing period for books to be adequate (undergraduate = 28 days, graduate = one semester and faculty = one year)

There was general agreement that the borrowing periods for undergraduates and graduates is "Just Right" but a large portion of the non-faculty (58%) who responded felt that the faculty loan period is too long. Some respondents were not satisfied with the loan period for ILL items. These loan periods are set by the

lending institution. A few requests were made to allow books to be renewed without bringing them into the library. This service is already available through MyAladin.

27. The CUA Libraries is constantly seeking ways to expand services and acquire products. Please select items below that you think should be given highest priority:

Many students requested private desks and/or lockers for PhD students. We understand this need, but the library cannot make this type of change to cater to a very select group of students at the cost of every other undergraduate and graduate student.

We understand that many students find the noise level on the third floor distracting. We will do our best to enforce our policies- particularly at the times of the semester when the library is very crowded.

Building and maintaining our collection is our top priority. We are always happy to have students and faculty suggest specific items that we can acquire. We do our best, with the funds that we have, to add new and useful materials to the library. While we would also like to replace items that are missing, this is not always possible. Some items can be very expensive to replace and may have very limited availability. Also, we cannot replace missing items if we do not know that they are missing. As many users pointed out, there is often a discrepancy between the catalog and the shelf. Library users who are unable to find materials should bring them to our attention so that the catalog can be updated and the items may be replaced.

28. The five most important issues facing library facilities, collection and services:

The five most important issues are (1) and (2) buying more books, (3) subscribing to print journals and buying more books (tied), (4) subscribing to print and online journals (tied), and (5) improve re-shelving of books.

Many of the comments received had to do with (a) the acquiring, (b) the re-shelving, (c) the replacing of lost books, and (d) the preservation of books. (a) Books are acquired through a combination of funds from the university, endowment funds and restricted funds. Requests for titles always exceed the amount of money to purchase, however. You may request a specific title by contacting the respective subject librarian. (b) Books are shelved regularly and books not in their proper location may be found in room 1 South in Mullen Stacks on a cart to be re-shelved. If the volume is not found there, you may put in a search request at the circulation desk. Our staff will look for the volume six times before declaring it 'missing'. (c) Once a book has been declared 'lost' or 'missing', this designation is reflected in the catalog. There is always a lag time between what goes missing, what is being searched and the final designation in the catalog. Once notified, the subject librarian will make the decision regarding ordering a replacement, assuming a copy is available for purchase. In the

meantime, the student is encouraged to put in a consortium loan or interlibrary loan request. (d) We have a photocopy preservation program whereby librarians identify decrepit volumes that are sent to be professionally photocopied and bound. We encourage faculty and students to bring to the librarian's attention such brittle volumes.

Other issues receiving comments had to do with the Mullen Library building in general. Issues included better wifi connectivity, more electrical outlets, and MERIC Lab issues.

29. Thank you for completing the survey! If you have any comments, please use the comment box below.

Several respondents commented on some of our facility's shortcomings. Mullen Library has been able to make several key improvements over the last few years, including the main reading room and new study rooms on the 2nd floor. We have developed plans to make some improvements to the third floor library- specifically to replace furniture carpeting and shelving. At this time, we are in the process of seeking grant money in order to fund this project.

We understand the importance of preserving our collection, and we are always trying to balance the needs of the collection with the cost of replacement or repair. If users notice books that need attention, it is important to report that information so that action can be taken. In some cases we have been able to produce photocopies of deteriorating items, and we look to continue this practice in the future as cost allows, with the possibility of making some of these texts available online, as permitted by copyright.

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