

**Assessing the Needs of Reese Library
Report of the Library Committee to the
Vice President for Academic Affairs
2005-06**

March 2006

The Library Committee's 2005-06 Report to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, identifies needs of Reese Library, Media Services, and the Curriculum Center. The Committee is charged to assess the needs of students and faculty, to determine how the library can better serve the academic and professional needs of the ASU community and better support the mission of ASU. The Committee has met during the 2005-2006 academic year and has discussed the current programs and needs of the Library, Curriculum Center, and Media Services.

Support for Reese Library, Media Services and the Curriculum Center is essential to the promotion and implementation of the objectives of the University and to meet the requirements of SACS and professional and specialized accrediting agencies governing the academic programs. Using the mission statements, FY06 unit plans, FY07 budget requests, and issues identified by the Committee, the Committee recommends the following as top priorities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

To accomplish goals set forth in the FY2006 Library Unit Plan, to add substantial contributions to the Student Success and Retention initiative, and to maintain the research/instructional mission of the Library at the current level, the Library Committee makes the following recommendations:

1. The Committee requests permanent funding for a position in Media Services that will provide technology assistance during evening instructional hours. At the moment there is a temporary position in Media Services for evening technology support, but unfortunately, the funding for this part-time position is limited to this fiscal year. A full time technician during evening hours would assist Media Services in meeting this critical need. The 2001 SACS accreditation report (Recommendation 10) stated that "...the library and other learning resources be adequately staffed." There are a number of evening and non-traditional students enrolled at Augusta State University. These students have a number of options they could choose for their education. Retaining these students should be a priority at Augusta State University, and availability of Media Services during the evening hours would help us in this process.

2. The Library continues to seek broader faculty support for the integration of an information literacy component as a curriculum requirement. Reference *General Education in the University System of Georgia* endorsed in December 2004 by the USG Vice-Presidents for Academic Affairs which states "**general education also assists students in their understanding of technology and information literacy**, diversity, and global awareness." Since some elements of this program already exist at the freshman level in ASUO 1000, we urge the University to consider building an information literacy component for all students within a freshman experience or learning community programming. The optimum would be to add a librarian to the team that is working on these types of programs, which would be major components in the student retention initiative and to the black male recruitment and retention initiative. Ideally, this person would be someone who would relate well to at-risk students, who is familiar with the university's environment, and has the ability to transfer research skills to the students so that they are able to exploit the university's potential.

Therefore, the Committee requests funding for another librarian in the Library Instruction program (*see Appendix B— Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia New Funding Plan FY07; and Challenge 3 of Appendix A—Reese Library Goals, Assessment, and Results July 2005-March 2006*)

3. The Committee requests that the personnel, operational, and maintenance funding needs of the Library, Media Services and the Curriculum Center be reassessed and budget changes recommended accordingly. A specific need is the addition of \$17,000 in Personnel-Student Assistant budgets to employ additional student workers (including security monitors) and part-time librarians to cover evenings and weekends; and possibly add hours to the library's opening schedule, as continually requested by students (*see Appendix B and Goal 4e of Appendix A*).

4. Continue to move to full-text, move away from print to promote access, and replace out-dated resources in order to make information resources available 24/7/365 for anyone with an ASU network account. (Strategy 1a-3 of the *Appendix A*). The Library Committee and Library faculty gratefully acknowledge the VPAA's \$50,000 addition to the Library's collection budget for FY05. However, there is a constant 8-10% increase in the cost of maintaining the print and electronic collections each year. Therefore, we request consideration of an incremental increase in the collections budget. (*see Appendix B*).

5. The Committee strongly recommends that the University bring the classrooms in Science Hall and Christenberry Fieldhouse up to the same instructional technology standards as Allgood and University Halls. Media Services can provide up-to-date estimates on this project based on the recent upgrade of rooms 1002 and 1008 in Science Hall.

PROGRESS TOWARD RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED BY THE VPAA

A significant amount of progress since the March 2005 Library Committee assessment:

Recognizing the need to update the 30 year old library building in light of the opening of the new Student Activities Center, the University acted very quickly in providing the resources to update the interior of Reese Library with new paint and furniture on the first and second floors and new carpet on the third. A new sprinkler system is also being put in place to bring the building up to code since the new SAC and the library are attached.

In a continuing effort to provide increased online access to information, the Library added the following electronic products to its offerings during the past year: RefWorks, a bibliographic citation management system; the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* 1868-1925 online full-text; Cabell's Directories online was added for the College of Business Administration; PsychArticles was added for the Department of Psychology; and In the First Person, a free resource, was also added as a primary source for historical research.

Last year the Library Committee recommended that Science Hall and the Christenberry Fieldhouse be brought up to the technology standards on Allgood and University Halls. Two rooms (1002 and 1008) in Science Hall have been appropriately retrofitted.

Last year the Library Committee recommended that the traditional student and faculty surveys be combined and a nationally recognized survey instrument, LibQUAL, be administered. The Library is now using (along with 22 other University System of Georgia institutions) the nationally recognized LibQUAL survey to survey both students and faculty. The first LibQUAL

is being administered between March 6 and March 31, 2006. The Committee and Library faculty gratefully acknowledge the funding provided by the VPAA for this survey.

Last year a recommendation was made to provide additional, permanent instructional technology assistance for evening classes. Media Services received temporary funding to provide this service.

Last year the Library Committee recommended that to improve students' access to materials placed on Reserve by faculty that the Library implement a new electronic reserves system which would give students access to Reserve materials at any time, anywhere via any computer with access to the ASU network. This system was funded and is now in place.

The Board of Regents program to expand access to information by improving linkages between electronic resources (more like Google) by implementing a University System-wide move to SFX (Strategy 1c-2, *Appendix A*) is underway and a beta test is in process. The update should be in place before the end of the year.

The request to fully outfit Media Services with the computers and other equipment originally planned for the program is partially complete (Media Services, Unit Plan, Goal 1a).

Both the Library and Media Services requested and received funding through the Student Technology Fund to provide updated public-access computers and other equipment for students.

In closing, the Library Committee feels that due to the Library faculty and staff, the Reese Library continues to improve and move in the right direction. The construction of the new Student Center has given impetus for many positive changes in the library. Once the Student Center is completed, we anticipate a positive increase in the number of library patrons.