

Library-SOE Focus Group Report Summary

A focus group was held January 16, 2008 with six School of Education (SOE) faculty members participating. Topics covered in the focus group were loosely based on questions about the following areas of interest:

- SOE faculty's current use/awareness of library resources.
- Barriers to SOE faculty's use of the library.
- Library support of SOE faculty and teaching (and)
- Suggestions to improve current library practices/conditions.
- Continuing communication/dialog between LRC and SOE

SOE faculty current use of library resources.

BI Sessions

A few SOE faculty use BI sessions. They especially like instruction on using: ERIC, delimitation of searching, cross-referencing, and webpage of Curriculum Guides.

Some SOE faculty do not use BI sessions for their classes, but wish professors of lower level classes would use BI sessions before students get to their SOE classes.

IMC K-12 Teaching materials

Some SOE faculty make a point of having students use these materials. They do not keep their own collections for student use, but have a few personal sources they show students in class.

IMC Audio/Visual Materials

Some SOE faculty use several videos every semester or on a regular basis. They would like these retained, but encourage weeding of this collection as many materials are "dated." They appreciate being consulted before items are discarded as some are very useful even if dated.

E-Reserve and Reserve

SOE faculty who use e-reserve are very enthusiastic about the service. They like books on reserve as these can be accessed by many students and are all in one area specifically for their students.

Online Reference and Researching Tools

SOE Faculty like to show students online resources from their classroom such as the online Mental Measurements Yearbook, ERIC, and state curriculum materials online. They used to bring students to the library, but the online access is simpler. Also, they believe students prefer to use these materials from a distance because many are not living in the area.

SOE Faculty Information on Barriers to use of Library

UWSP Online Library

- UWSP's library homepage is difficult for students and even faculty to use.
- Hard to find journals, need clear/more direct indication, like JOURNALS HERE!
- Frustrated with many layers of links to find teaching and researching resources. Changes in structure of these links happen with little explanation or warning.
- Concerned for distance education students who have problems accessing library resources and live far away.

Ordering Materials

- Process for requesting materials (acquisition process) is difficult to use.

- Once an item is ordered they are uncertain how to tell where it is in the acquisition process.
- SOE faculty believe if they ask for a new edition of a title that the librarian sees we own older edition(s) and does not order the new one.
- SOE faculty believe the library does not allow ordering multiple copies of a book (even for Reserve).
- SOE faculty are short on time and would welcome a simpler way to request items.

UWSP Library on campus

- Limited hours during winterim, interim, and summer “are not conducive” to student and faculty schedules.
- IMC layout is seen as not “inviting” to students (and faculty).
- SOE faculty find it difficult to use the collection when teaching materials are shelved in different areas of the library.

Library Support of SOE Faculty and Teaching /Some Suggestions for Improvement Orientation for New Faculty/Instructors

SOE faculty encourage/applaud the library orientation for new faculty and instructors to inform them of resources, services, and layout of the library.

BI Concerns

SOE faculty would really like required BI sessions for students before they get to the SOE classes. They suggest *all incoming freshman* be taught: delimiting searches, citing sources – how and why, information literacy and critical appraisal of sources.

IMC Teaching Materials and Services

All SOE faculty present agreed the IMC resources are not current, need to be “beefed up,” and should be inventoried and weeded to make the collection more useful. (But please check with them when weeding, especially with the audio/video materials.)

SOE faculty wonder if the Media Lab can convert one media format to a more current format, and help with making video available online to use for their class materials.

Additional Ideas to enhance IMC usefulness and usability:

- IMC could act as a “clearinghouse” to facilitate sharing of instruction/curricula materials (online or in print) created or in use by SOE faculty.
- IMC could: gather curriculum materials being used in central Wisconsin; gather textbooks being used in central Wisconsin; secure policies for central Wisconsin school districts in hard copy.
- Materials could be grouped by subject, complete with appropriate juvenile fiction (contemporary world literature for global view and in line with campus agenda).
- Rearranging the IMC physically: to make it more inviting, to provide more space for groups of students to work on projects together, to remove outdated furniture.
- SOE faculty envision the IMC as a place Education students consider “home” and suggest renaming it to include Teacher, like Teacher Resource Center.

Online Reference and Research Tools

OE faculty want something to use for Distance Ed students to help them avoid confusion and to clarify how to get things they do not find fulltext.

Resources are too hard to find through layers of links.

SOE faculty want to be reminded of the web pages available that are useful for their classes so they can add links to these on their web pages/teaching materials.

Ordering/Acquisition of Materials

SOE faculty suggest a proactive approach **with IMC staff** taking a more active role in facilitating ordering.

OR: SOE faculty using a group process to create a list to order from.

Continuing Communication/Dialog Between LRC and SOE

Collaborating

- SOE faculty were delighted to participate in the library focus group.
- All present expressed a desire to continue the dialog/conversation/collaboration.
- They prefer partnering with the library to comparatively parallel operation of the two departments.
- SOE faculty want a specific web page devoted to Education students' needs, with Frequently Asked Questions, guides to searching, a directory and site map, etc.
- SOE faculty suggested using D2L to get end-user input from their students.

Communication for and with SOE Faculty

- Instructional sessions/updating on resources should be:
 - Short and sweet
 - Scheduled through the department chair's office
 - Possibly brown-bag lunches
 - Possibly in place of a regularly scheduled department meeting
 - Preferably held in the Education Department
- SOE faculty suggested a regularly scheduled (annual?) forum between library and SOE faculty to continue the dialog begun with the SOE focus group. Suggested timing is in January just prior to start of classes.
- SOE faculty are appreciative of the request for input, and feel people at the library are always ready and willing to help them.