What does the library have to do with a student’s success?

--by Gavin Ferriby, University Librarian

What (really) does an academic library contribute to student success?

The answer to this question depends on many variables and arguable points of view. “Student success” can have many meanings, and just what it is varies widely according to the observer. It can mean:

For students: either an excellent or a passing grade (depending on the class); or the desire to continue university study; or finishing their degrees;

For faculty: students learned the content and approach; or were engaged with learning;

For academic administrators: students re-enroll semester after semester (retention), or many semesters (persistance), or finish their degrees (completion). It might also mean: how the recent graduate fares in the job market or other post-completion projects (such as graduate school).

For parents: a sense that a student’s university experience is worth the time and money;

For employers: how recent graduates fare on the job, in the job market, or graduate school.

What is student failure? That can also mean many things:

A flunking grade (was the instruction poor, or did the student not put in the work?)

Transferring to another college, or ceasing to be enrolled anywhere (did the student develop an interest better pursued elsewhere? Were finances insufficient? Did the student have a poor social experience? Or lack the personal maturity or motivation?)

A lack of engagement with learning, even when continuing to enroll for courses (Was the student simply putting in “seat time” without any real intellectual or social engagement?)

A sense that the amount of tuition does not match expectations of a student’s academic or social experience.

Librarians have developed a real interest in “student success,” and a sizable academic and professional literature to support it. The primary motivation is: because that has been librarians’ work for a long time – but now with some new vocabulary. Librarians have long believed that the Library is relevant to teaching and learning – but how could they show that with results that could withstand critical challenge? Of course, librarians are also interesting in continued funding – but only a cynic would see that as the only motivation.

So, what (really) does an academic library contribute to student success? This is where defining what success is, becomes crucial, as well as how this question is answered.

Most studies of library contributions to effective teaching and learning rely upon correlating some kind of library usage with some kind of measurable outcome.
What does the library have to do with a student’s success?

-- continued from pg. 1

(grades, evaluations, retention, completion). But are students successful because they use the library, or do they use it because they are already successful? Are faculty who use library services more effective than those who don’t and why? Any scientist will tell you that correlation is not causation, but when human beings are the subject, studies of causation have inherent problems. For example, a full double-blind study investigating whether library usage causes superior student achievement would prohibit some group of faculty and students from library usage (as a control group). Instituting such a prohibition is unlikely, since students pay tuition, and likely is unethical and contrary to the university’s mission. So carefully defined correlation is as good evidence as anyone is going to get.

Libraries have a long tradition of user privacy—in fact, libraries may be the last zones in which some degree of intellectual privacy is even possible. Thus, studies that correlate library use with some kind of academic or institutional success often have to rely upon users’ self-disclosure or following institutional guidelines and shared ethical standards. Some users do not wish to disclose what library resources and services they use, or simply do not want to take the time.

So, what (really) does an academic library contribute to student success?

Quite a bit, it turns out, and it has been well-documented in a three-year project sponsored by academic librarians (in their professional association), the Association of Institutional Research, the Association of Public Land-Grant Universities, and the (federal) Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Over 70 higher education institutions completed team-based assessment projects, and shared their findings and methods. The variety of methods and cases strongly suggests that correlating library usage with student success is not incidental or some kind of outlier. Findings (reviewed and critiqued) show that:

- Library instruction builds students’ confidence and competencies with the research process, contributes to retention of students, persistence in their enrollment, and completion of their degrees, especially for students in first-year experiences;
- Library research and study spaces foster social and academic community.
- Collaborative instruction and service with other campus organizations (writing center, tutoring services, faculty teaching center) foster significant positive results shown in different kinds of evaluations.

So, what (really) does an academic library contribute to student success?

When the library’s story aligns most closely with the institution’s or mission, showing the library’s role in building excellent teaching and learning is possible. The correlations are very strong. As SHU continues to develop its teaching and learning excellence, the library contribution will be vital to sustaining and sustainable student success for the students themselves, their faculty, parents, future employers, and future colleagues.


Considering Using Artstor and its over Two Million Images

--by Chelsea Stone, Digital Projects & Resource Management Librarian

From Women’s Studies and Anthropology to Natural Sciences and Fashion, faculty and students across disciplines will find useful images and information through the Artstor database. Now the “most comprehensive image resource available for education and scholarly use,” Artstor works globally with universities, museums, schools, photo archives, scholars, artists and libraries to continuously grow and update their collections (Artstor.org). The digital library has more than 2 million high quality images; including those from rare and pervasive collections and 375,000 Open Access Images (which means the images are freely available online for immediate use) available through Shared Shelf Commons. In 2016, Artstor joined
ITHAKA, a not-for-profit, perhaps best known for its database JSTOR. The assembling of image collections that span cultures and eras makes Artstor an invaluable resource for education and scholarship in numerous disciplines studied at Sacred Heart University.

While SHU library users have access to the Artstor Digital Library and the Shared Shelf Commons, they are also encouraged to create a registered account for additional services. Images from the digital library can populate PowerPoint presentations and content rights have been cleared for educational use. Personal collections created by faculty and students can be utilized for instruction, study, research, examinations, presentations and more. Teaching resources provide a value add with curriculum guides, subject guides, survey case studies and free webinars. Access for registered users is also offered through a mobile site.

To access the Artstor Digital Library, Shared Shelf Commons and register please go to: www.artstor.org

Chelsea Stone, the Digital Resources & Projects Management Librarian is the institutional contact for Artstor at SHU and can be reached at stonec7@sacredheart.edu. Please feel free to contact her with any questions.

Gift book donations

--by Nancy Del Vecchio, Resource Development Librarian

Recently the Library received a large donation of books from the Smith Richardson Fundation located in Westport, CT. The foundation’s mission is ‘to contribute to important public debates and to address serious public policy challenges facing the United States… It also seeks to assist with the development of effective policies to compete internationally and to advance U.S. interests and values abroad.’

Individuals who receive grants to study foreign and domestic issues and policies are required to write a lengthy article or book on their studies, findings, and recommendations. Some of the recent topics include Putin’s Russia, foundations of power in the Asia-Pacific, and risks in national security.

The Foundation and the Library are pleased to make these new, timely books available to Sacred Heart students, faculty, alumni, and the greater Fairfield community.
New Center for Healthcare Education expands Library Resource Center

--by Gavin Ferriby, University Librarian

The new Center for Healthcare Education, 4000 Park Ave., expands space and seating for the Library Resource Center. The space approximately doubles the number of seats from the previous center on the former Cambridge Campus. Four group study rooms will facilitate interactive projects and study sessions, three of which can seat 10 students, and fourth can seat five. The new center also holds about 1,550 books to support health care instruction. The move over the summer afforded librarians the opportunity to process a number of now-dated volumes either out of the collection, or to re-locate volumes at the Ryan Matura Library. Due to the “reference” and instructional nature of the remaining books, they still cannot be checked out, continuing previous policy. In addition, Geoffrey Staysniak, Health Sciences Reference Librarian, has a beautiful office which allows much more space for student and faculty consultations, and online interaction. With the entire new Center, this new facility will move healthcare education forward, and continue the University’s excellence in teaching and learning.

Zotero

--by Geoffrey Staysniak, Health Science Reference Librarian

Sacred Heart students who wish to start using the resource management and citation software Zotero have a brand new resource to help them transition into successful utilization of this powerful tool. Thanks to Instructional Design Librarian Urszula Lechtenberg and Health Sciences Librarian Geoffrey Staysniak, the library now offers a comprehensive Zotero Guide available on the library website. Through close collaboration with Credo Reference, Urszula and Geoffrey have created a video tutorial that walks users through downloading and installing Zotero, and also how to use it to store articles, citation information and how to create instant-in-text citations and full works cited in any style of their choice. Along with the tutorial, the guide has also been outfitted with a collection of several sections that also review how to install and use Zotero through thorough outlines that come complete with screenshots for every step of the process.

Now, on-ground and distance students alike from all academic levels and programs can more easily take advantage of this popular resource organization and citation tool through this custom-made reference source that has been so carefully designed to accommodate an array of learning preferences.

Full Text Finder

--by Dan Fitzroy, Metadata and Resource Management Librarian

Find the full text of articles with Full Text Finder!

As you are searching library resources and databases, including the new QuickSearch, you may find records that sound perfect for your research but do not have the full text attached. Don’t get discouraged. Sometimes the full text of that article may be available from another resource to which the library subscribes.

The library uses a service called 360Link, which is known as an OpenURL link resolver. This tool knows what we have access to and where, and it can be used to link you to the full text of an article that is found in a different resource from the one you are searching in.

Over the summer we renamed our 360Link service “Full Text Finder” to better indicate what it is actually doing for you. When you are looking through results in a database and the database does not have the full text of an article, you may see the new Full Text Finder button next to the result. To see if we have access to that article in any of our other resources, simply click on the Full Text Finder button.

If we have access to the article, simply follow the link to the full text. If we do not have access and you have a little time, feel free to click on the “Request Item” link. This will bring you to our Interlibrary Loan (ILL) service where, after you log in, an ILL form will be prepopulated for you. When you are looking through results in a database and the database does not have the full text of an article, you may see the new Full Text Finder button next to the result. To see if we have access to that article in any of our other resources, simply click on the Full Text Finder button.

Don’t get discouraged. Sometimes the full text of that article may be available from another resource to which the library subscribes.

So the next time you are searching the library’s resources and come across a result with no full text, let Full Text Finder find that full text for you!
The new QuickSearch is here!

--by Dan Fitzroy, Metadata and Resource Management Librarian

After a lengthy selection process that included multiple trials, we have selected and implemented a new Discovery tool at the library. The new and improved QuickSearch feature now uses EBSCO Discovery Service to help students and faculty quickly get to the information they need.

The new QuickSearch is a great way to quickly discover information by searching most of the library’s resources from one simple search box. Currently, QuickSearch searches content from over 12 resources and databases, including Academic Search Premier, CINAHL Complete, Business Source Premier, JSTOR, and more. This gives the researcher simple access to millions of journal articles from over 50,000 journal titles (including over 14,000 peer-reviewed titles), over 200,000 eBooks, nearly 80,000 print books, and over 32,000 streaming videos.

While searching all these resources at once can be a time saver as you begin your research, the sheer number of results can be overwhelming. For this reason, QuickSearch has a number of built-in tools that can help you narrow down to just the information that you need.

Since QuickSearch uses an EBSCO product, students and faculty may recognize the limiters down the left-side of the results page, which can allow researchers to quickly narrow down the results to the ones needed. These limiters include ones for Full Text, Peer Reviewed articles, Books, Date range, Source type (academic journals, books, eBooks, primary sources, and videos), and Subjects.

In addition, there are a number of built-in tools to help one through the early stages of the research process. One of the first things you may notice is the box above the first result. This is the Credo Reference box that displays a link to a topic page relevant to your search term. Topic Pages provide you with basic information and may help you narrow the scope of your search. For general keyword searches, you may see a box in between search results #7 and #8 that will lead you to subject specific databases and Research Guides related to your search.

If further assistance is needed, one can simply chat with a librarian by clicking on the blue “Ask Us” button on the right-side of any page in QuickSearch.

Give the new QuickSearch a try today by visiting the library’s homepage at library.sacredheart.edu!

SHU Library Resource Builder

--by Urszula “Ula” Lechtenberg, Instructional Design Librarian

The library’s new QuickSearch tool provides a seamlessly integrated Blackboard tool called Library Resource Builder (Curriculum Builder). With this tool, instructors, TAs, and course builders can create reading lists of peer-reviewed articles or ebooks directly in Blackboard course shells. This saves a lot of time because instructors do not have to download articles and the upload them into Blackboard, or try to find the appropriate links that may break in the future.

Library Resource Builder connects directly to the library’s databases. The simple search allows instructors to search by keyword, author name or title of the article or ebook. Each item in the results displays with a large “Add to Reading List” button, making it easy to add or delete items. You can divide readings into multiple folders, customize the sorting order, add special instructions, and copy lists across courses and within departments.

For more information about Library Resource Builder, contact Ula Lechtenberg (leichenbergu@sacredheart.edu). For hands-on experience with the new tool, full-time and adjunct faculty are invited to attend an Office of Digital Learning workshop October 31, 2017 2:00-3:00 pm in Martire E259.
Faculty who would like their students to use the library’s resources more often will find a new tool in Blackboard that makes it easier for students to do so. Through the Libguides Tool, library Research Guides and Database lists can be embedded directly in any Blackboard course shell.

The library already has a large selection of research guides from which to choose. Faculty can select to embed a full research guide, a specific page of a guide, or even a content box. Some research guides point directly to specific resources, while others take a more pedagogical approach and incorporate essential information literacy skills. If there are guides faculty members would like see created specifically for their courses or assignments, they should contact their liaison librarian or the Instructional Design Librarian, Ula Lechtenberg (lechtenbergu@sacredheart.edu).

For more information about the process of embedding, a short video is available on the library's new Vimeo account (https://vimeo.com/sacredheartulib) as well as on the faculty page (http://library.sacredheart.edu/faculty). Written instructions are also linked from that page.

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Library Research Guides Integration In Blackboard

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by Urszula “Ula” Lechtenberg, Instructional Design Librarian

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Third Year Running Library Weekly Trivia Contest

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by Renata Cioffi, Director of Library Information and Budget

In October 2015 the Ryan Matura Library started a weekly trivia contest. Since then its has become a hit with many students, faculty, staff, and sometimes guests participating in trying to win a prize. The rules of the contest is that there will be a new question every Monday, written on a dry erase board in the inner foyer of the library. Located near the board is a box for participants to insert their answers. Every Monday a ballot will be selected randomly from the box; the first ballot drawn with the correct answer will earn a lucky participant a prize and recognition through a campus wide email. A Grand Prize will be given at the end of the semester when all the weekly prize winning ballots are entered in a final drawing.

Here are two trivia questions from last year: 1) What company developed the “space pen” so that it could write in zero gravity, work under extreme temperatures and not be a hazard in the space capsule like the graphite pencils? A: Fisher Pen Co. 2) Who was the first surgeon to perform open heart surgery and when? A: Dr. Daniel Hale Williams in 1893

Stop by the library every week to try and guess the answer and for a chance to win.

Here is a list of last year Grand Prize Winners: John Albergo, Alana Corrente, and Raja Ambati
Annual Fall Library Mini Golf

This past fall the Library again with SHU Print Shop cosponsored a mini golf event. The mini golf ran during Welcome Week, August 28-29. This event was put together by the Library Marketing Committee due to the overwhelming success it had in the past few years. Having a mini golf event in the Library has been rewarding to both the staff and students. The students have benefitted by having a location where it does not tend to have out of the box events and it is usually viewed as a traditional place to visit when you want to study. Giving the students the opportunity to view the library in a more relaxed atmosphere has helped in bringing in a more diverse group of students who would otherwise not be visiting. This annual event has also helped the staff in building different relationships with the students. The students view the librarians and the staff in a more approachable way especially when they see them competing in the event also. The event has become a great success and it will be an ongoing annual event during Welcome Week.

This past fall there were over 175 players who completed at least some portion of the 18 holes, which were set up through the first and second floors. Play culminated with a championship series with prizes. There were four winners: Van Lupardi, Prof. John Karpinski, Mike Peters, and Tyler Lascola. Here are some pictures of the event and winners.

The library is already planning next year’s version, improving the layout, and dates.

Football Display And Trivia

The Library is co-sponsoring a SHU Football trivia contest with the Athletic Department. Every home football game has a special theme such as Heroes Day, Family Day and Senior Day. The weekly trivia question before each home game is based upon the game’s theme.

A display in the library promotes the SHU football team and has the trivia question posted. Students submit their answers in the Library and the winner is announced during the football game. Generous prizes have been donated by sponsors of the SHU football team.

The Library is excited to co-sponsor this trivia contest with the Athletic Department and help increase fan support for the football team.
Below is a list of books the library staff have recently read. Each book has 1 to 5 star rating based on how they enjoyed the book.

**Gavin Ferriby:**
- *The Givenness of Things: Essays* by Marilynne Robinson ★★★★★
- *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America’s Great Migration* by Isabelle Wilkerson ★★★★★

**Chelsea Stone:**
- *Norse Mythology* by Neil Gaiman ★★★★★
- *The Omen Machine* by Terry Goodkind ★★★★

**Geoffrey Staysniak:**
- *1493: Uncovering the World Columbus Created* by Charles C. Mann ★★★★★
- *A Fort of Nine Towers: An Afghan Family Story* by Qais Akbar Omar ★★★★

**Dan Fitzroy:**
- *Anathem: a novel* by Neal Stephenson ★★★★★

**Urszula “Ula” Lechtenberg:**
- *Since We Fell* by Dennis Lehane ★★★★★

**Beverly Lysobey:**
- *The Cuban Affair: a novel* by Nelson DeMille ★★★★★
- *Little fires everywhere* by Celeste Ng ★★★★★
- *Beach House for rent* by Mary Alice Monroe ★★★★★
The University Library hosts a small collection of books oriented towards “popular” reading (meaning: things you don’t have to read for class or teaching). These books are leased from a library vendor so that they can be exchanged easily with minimal processing costs.

Here are some titles:

- **The Stars are Fire** by Anita Shreve
- **Before the Fall** by Noah Hawley
- **Best Day Ever** by Kaira Rouda
- **The Whistler** by John Grisham

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**Staff Book Review**

--by Chelsea Stone, Digital Projects & Resource Management Librarian

**The American Fantasy Novel: Part II**

Orson Scott Card is often best known for his science fiction, including *Ender’s Game* (now a major motion picture). The *Tales of Alvin Maker*, however, takes place in an alternative American, frontier reality to 17th and 18th century histories of European settlement on the Atlantic coast, westward expansion by way of the eastern rivers and Native American land. The fictionalized map of these regions has familiar geography and readers will recognize some names, but the territories illustrate the extent to which Card’s story has decidedly altered the shape of history. He uses historic figures to weave his tale; including Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson, Napoleon Bonaparte and Marquis de La Fayette, which lends authenticity and credibility to this alternative history. These characters maintain much of their essence and Card uses them as anchors to ground us in the Americana of the story.

And here begins the American legend of the Maker (Creator) and his nemesis the Unmaker (Destroyer). Alvin Maker has folk magic and enhanced power from being the seventh son of a seventh son. His powers allow him to interact with the chemistry of things and then through understanding to alter, change, fix or create, such as healing by looking inside the body or turning iron into gold by looking inside the metal. There is also a quality of giving life or purpose to both things and people. Many characters in this fantasy tale have “knacks,” which allow dowsers to find water and those with second sight to warn of dangers. It is with the help of others with gifts that Alvin fights the Unmaker and those influenced by his dark powers. Through the Unmaker, Card deals with the harsh realities of this time period; race relations, stealing lands, breaking treaties, killings for gain and corrupt politicians are all an element to this tale. By adding folk magic and creating an alternative America, Card is almost trying to give us a glimpse of the America that could have been.

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**Ryan Matura Library Book Club**

The Ryan Matura Library Book Club has been convening four times a year since 2013. Staff, students, and faculty have all participated on an off depending on their schedules. Previously books picked for discussion were decided by the group. This fall semester we have changed that process.

Recently ALA (The American Library Association) launched Book Club Central with Sarah Jessica Parker [http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2017/02/ala-launch-book-club-central-sarah-jessica-parker](http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2017/02/ala-launch-book-club-central-sarah-jessica-parker), providing an online platform of reading resources and content for book clubs. The first book club meeting this fall we will be discussing one of the book recommended on the site titled *No One is Coming to Save Us* by Stephanie Powell Watts. This will give club members the opportunity to use social media and connect with others who have read the same books and join in the discussion. The Club meets twice in the fall semester and twice in the spring semester. The discussion for the current book will be held on October 23 at 1:00 PM in the Library Café. Please email Renata Cioffi at cioffim@sacredheart.edu if you have any questions or would like to attend.
**Ryan Matura Library Upcoming Events**

**GUEST SPEAKER**

October 16, 2017

Kelsey Timmerman Acclaimed investigative reporter on Globalization. Lecture to start at 2:00 PM in the University Commons

**LIBRARY BOOK CLUB**

October 23, 2017

No One is Coming to Save Us, by Stephanie Powell Watts — Book Club Meeting for at 1:00 PM in the Library Café

**Brain Teasers Answers:** 1) Corn on the Cob, 2) He is playing Monopoly, and 3) There are several, and there could be more: 1. job, Job 2. herb, Herb 3. polish, Polish

**Academic Year 2017 Library Statistics @ a Glance**

1) Number of students using library 246,734
2) Number of Database Searches from July 2016 to June 2017 1,950,618
3) Number of Reference Desk Activity 3,953
4) Number of Times Study Rooms Booked 4,166

**Starbucks Library Café**

Fall & Spring Semester Hours

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Grab And Go Sandwiches or Salad
With a Selection of Drinks

**Staff News**

Mark Denny, Manager of Library Instructional Support Services and Technology, recently helped complete the library tutorial video project. The project's goal was to create several videos to help people utilize library resources. His main contribution was editing all of the videos, but he assisted with scriptwriting and audio recording as well. You can view our videos at [https://vimeo.com/sacredheartulib](https://vimeo.com/sacredheartulib).

In addition, he worked on improving the security of the library website. He is working with Sacred Heart's IT Security team to enhance and maintain the site’s security measures, including upgrading the site to HTTPS, as well as collaborating with the other librarians to work with our database vendors to do the same for their sites.

**New Book Display**

NEW BOOKS: Check out the changing display of new books on the first floor of the Library.