

Mission of Irvine Sullivan Ingram Library

(approved, Faculty Senate Committee IV, Learning Resources, 10/28/02)

The mission of Ingram Library is to provide a range of library services to the State University of West Georgia students, faculty, administration, and staff, and to the general West Georgia community. These services increasingly must be delivered at the point of need; whether in the building or off-campus, in person or electronically, with one-on-one reference assistance or in classroom instruction, whether through locally held collections or through traditional or electronic access to materials owned elsewhere. Such a mission demands that Ingram Library marshal and manage a core of resources that revolves around Library faculty and staff, Library services, and Library collections.

Library Staff

The Library will engage a staff of professionally educated/accredited Library faculty and a qualified support staff. Special emphasis will be placed upon additional degree work and continual enhancement of both knowledge bases and skill levels to meet patrons' need for service, instruction, and collection organization and maintenance. Familiarity with and competence in emergent technology will increasingly be definitive of effective personnel.

Library Services

The traditional range of Library services is expanding apace. Information is increasingly available in a variety of paper, micro, and digital formats, requiring technological knowledge and skills. Information and patrons are increasingly located at remote locations: each must be effectively serviced at its location in a way that brings the two together. The Library as a global gateway to scholarly information is no longer an intuitively accessed place or organization. Common sense and functional literacy are inadequate preparation for successful library use. While access to information must be kept as simple as to be useful, Library faculty must look increasingly toward classroom instruction to assure base levels of mechanical and knowledge skills for students, faculty, and other patrons. Class-based instruction will also prove increasingly useful to higher level students as they become engaged in the research process and in life-long (post-University) learning.

Library Collections

It has always been any academic library's responsibility to provide a core collection of materials and resources to satisfy pedagogical purposes. Collection building, however, has undergone transformation in the electronic age. Some materials are only available by electronic linkages, regardless of location or ownership. Access and delivery mechanisms must be refined and devised that make the collection accessible to patrons. Collection building now includes the provision and maintenance of appropriate equipment. Finally, as the rigor of curricular programs is enhanced, the Library must increase the depth of the collections in areas emphasized by the University. Research level materials will become integral to a pedagogical collection.

The Library's Mission in Relationship to the Mission of UWG

The mission of Ingram Library attempts to be directly supportive of UWG's mission: there is and will be an increased emphasis on teaching and learning, research and public service. The Library is a primary University contact and resource for off-campus students. As the nature of scholarly communications process change, Library staff, services, and collections will become more proactive in anticipating information requirements of students, faculty, and staff. The Library has for some time been viewed as a community cultural resource. As library services become more tied to the curricular requirements of an information age, we expect students, faculty, and local residents to recognize that the intellectual rigor of the University will be manifested in the Library as well. The services of the Library will prepare students to meet the challenges of an information society. Indeed, the Library will be an integral component of that change. As the Library more satisfactorily meets University requirements, the value to local citizens will move beyond being an adjunct to public and school libraries and bookstores. Ingram Library will become recognized as a pedagogical unit and an intellectual asset of the University and community.