Who We Are

UW Colleges libraries provide services to 13 campuses, UW Colleges Online, and the FLEX and BAAS degree programs. All of our librarians have a Master’s Degree in Library Science or Library and Information Science. We are equipped to aid students in the development of the following skills: critical and creative thinking, inquiry and analysis, and evaluation and synthesis of information.

The professional library staff of the 13 UW Colleges campuses and Library Support Services (LSS) makes up a Library Council with an elected chair and three-person steering committee. Library Council elects members to represent UW Colleges at the Council of University of Wisconsin Libraries (CUWL) and Wisconsin Library System.

Our Mission

The Library Council’s mission is to foster collaboration and to support the UW Colleges libraries in their role as the information gateway for the university community.

Our Vision

The Library Council is a strong collective voice of the UW Colleges libraries poised to:
• Provide leadership and support for building effective library staff.
• Anticipate changing environments and trends.
• Position the libraries’ role as the central hub for learning and research.
• Build a community of librarians with shared goals.
• Affirm and communicate the essential value of libraries to the institution.
Libraries by the Numbers

The UW Colleges libraries support the mission of the Colleges by providing academic support and services to students and faculty. As physical spaces, the libraries are a focal point on each campus where patrons receive research and learning support. 21,972 patrons passed through UW Colleges Libraries’ doors during a typical week in the 2013-14 academic year. That’s an average of 1,690 library patrons per campus, per week, with UW–Waukesha seeing over 5,100 and UW–Sheboygan over 2,500 patrons during a typical week.

UW Colleges Librarians answered 20,558 in-person research questions. In addition to in-person assistance, the Colleges libraries embrace digital services—such as online chat—answering 1,705 chat research questions in 2013–14. Library staff also create online research guides, which assist students and instructors with research, class assignments, and the distribution of class materials. In 2013–14, library research guides were accessed 232,243 times.

UW Colleges libraries leverage collective purchasing power to expand access while reducing costs. Through UW Colleges, UW System, and participation in DPI’s Badgerlink, our patrons have access to more than 150 unique databases to support all academic disciplines and areas of interest. Over half a million searches were conducted within these databases in 2013–14, and over 236 thousand full-text articles were downloaded for research support.

Innovation in Service

“The library had a huge impact on the BAAS degree. Their willingness to assist… and the quality of services they provide has a significant impact on student success.”

UW Colleges Faculty

UW–Colleges libraries support innovative UW–Colleges programs such as the BAAS and FLEX degrees. Librarians offer information literacy services by creating library research guides, helping students navigate research tools, providing e-portfolio assistance, and by immersing themselves and their services in the classroom. Librarians also effectively utilize D2L, social media, email, and online chat to bring information literacy services directly to the BAAS students and instructors at their point of need.

As pointed out in a recent Association of College and Research Libraries article, “Students who receive library instruction as part of their courses achieve higher grades and demonstrate better information literacy competencies than students who do not.” In 2013–14, UW Colleges librarians provided information literacy instruction to 11,565 students across multiple disciplines. Each of the 637 information literacy classes emphasized the ability to locate, evaluate, and use information effectively.

In fall 2014, information literacy skills were assessed at all thirteen campuses and UW Colleges Online using an assessment tool known as SAILS. The results showed that students from the UW Colleges performed higher than the peer institution benchmark and the all-institution mean scores for each of the eight measured skill sets.
“Over many years, the library and its staff have become integral and essential in enabling us to offer students a meaningful and discipline specific undergraduate research experience.”

“As a scholar, I cannot explain enough how important it is to feel that I have this kind of support for my research.”

“Though the physical book collection of my library is small, the access I have to key research databases in my field (like the MLA bibliography), the libraries of the UW System, and many of the libraries throughout the country through Interlibrary Loan have made it possible for me to pursue an active research agenda as part of my requirements for tenure.”

“I appreciate that no Interlibrary Loan (ILL) request ever seems too much or too late, and that you always find the requested material quickly and with attentive enthusiasm. ILL also supports student success as many of my requests are for materials used in developing courses and assignments, and in improving labs and lectures.”

“The librarians saved my life as a freshman in college. I was taught essential researching techniques and shown how to use the library’s website. I would not have been able to write the papers and complete assignments without learning first how to navigate the library and website.”

“I was a chronic user of Google, and before receiving instruction from the librarians, and having access to databases, I didn’t know I had any other options.”

“In general the library has really helped me do the proper research… needed for my final assessment. I was worried about the research portion of the final, as it can be tricky to find reliable sources. However it was not hard with the help of the librarians and database(s). It was fairly easy and I was able to ask questions for different sources I should be using… The library… has done a great job helping students get good information on whatever topics they happen to be researching.”

“I have used the library’s databases instead of Google for every research assignment now, upgrading my sources from unreliable to scholarly. I was also taught how to properly cite works both in text and on the works cited page.”

1 http://www.ala.org/acrl/sites/ala.org.acrl/files/content/issues/value/contributions_summary.pdf
2 https://www.projectsails.org/AboutTest; Please contact your campus librarian for local results.