Principles of Accreditation

Compliance Report

Chipola College Compliance Audit Report

SACS Comprehensive Standard 3.8.1

3.8.1 - Learning/Information Resources

The institution provides facilities and learning/information resources that are appropriate to support its teaching, research, and service mission.

Judgment of Compliance

❖ In Compliance

Statement of Rationale for Judgment of Compliance

Chipola College provides facilities, services, and other learning/information resources that are appropriate to support its teaching, research, and service mission. The Library’s mission is to “provide learning resources, information services, and instructional technology that are relevant and responsive to the educational needs, personal enrichment, cultural development, and economic growth of a diverse campus and community” (Statement of Purpose).

The college is a member of Florida’s College Center for Library Automation (CCLA) [1] consortium, which coordinates the collections of the twenty-eight community colleges and eleven state universities through a common library collection management system (LINCC-Library Information Network for Community Colleges), providing its students with a vast range of learning resources. The college is a member of the Panhandle Library Access Network (PLAN) [2], which is a non-profit, multi-library cooperative that assists libraries by leading and encouraging collaboration, resource sharing, staff development, and innovation. The college also participates in a Library Borrowing Privileges Agreement [3] between the State University System of Florida and the Community College System of Florida that allows both types of institutions to extend access and borrowing privileges among currently enrolled students, faculty, and staff of public higher education institutions in Florida. The Chipola College Library provides access to print and electronic materials to students affiliated with the University Center on campus which includes students from University of West Florida, Florida State University, and Troy University.

The provision of facilities, services, and learning/information resources relates to the mission by providing the resources and services which sustain and support accessible, affordable, quality educational opportunities—a key component of the college’s mission. With regard to appropriateness of facilities, services, and learning/information resources, the 2000 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Standards for Libraries in Higher Education [4] place more emphasis on libraries
demonstrating appropriateness not only through inputs (e.g. resources), but also through the effective application of these resources. With that philosophy in mind, library faculty members contribute to the evaluation of appropriateness of facilities, services, and learning/information resources. Supporting documentation for the adequacy of the Library and learning resources is obtained through a periodic program review of the Library by the Instructional Resources Committee. Additionally, supporting documentation is provided through the annual administration of the graduating student questionnaire and employee survey. For the past two years, the majority of respondents have been “satisfied” to “highly satisfied” with the Library and services.

Library Facilities and Structure
The Chipola College Library provides facilities, services and resources which support the College’s teaching, research, and service mission. The Library is housed in a 14,587 square foot building originally built in 1958, renovated and expanded in 1962, 1975, and renovated extensively in 2003. The Library consists of a basement, main floor, mezzanine, and second floor. The basement houses a television studio and video production room (1095 square feet) as well as the College Public Relations Department and a substation for the local NBC television affiliate.

The Library’s main floor (7928 square feet) houses the reference collection, periodical display and collection, reading area, reference computer lab, main circulation/reference desk, two supplemental reference desks, copier room, audio-visual storage, staff offices, study room, library classroom, and restrooms. The main floor has seating for 77 at 13 tables, nine carrels, four sofas and eight occasional chairs. The Library classroom has seating for 18, as well as a networked computer/DVD/ceiling hung projector. Groups as large as six can make use of the main floor study room. The office area houses the audio-visual storage area as well as librarian and staff offices. This office area also houses cataloging, book and serials processing, and general library work areas. The reference lab consists of 13 networked computers and a networked printer available for Internet use. A color printer is also available to all computers in the Library. Other services include wireless Internet connectivity for students and staff.

The mezzanine (2367 square feet) houses the circulating book collection. An on-line catalog computer station is located adjacent to the book stacks. Three study carrels and two occasional chairs are available for seating. The second floor (3197 square feet) contains the Tech Center, two study rooms, an office and a storage room. The Tech Center houses 32 networked computers and a network printer. The Tech Center also offers Internet connectivity, Microsoft Office Suite, and specialized software for the Business and Computer Science Departments. The two study rooms can accommodate a total of 22 people and provide TV/VCR/DVD viewing capability.

Appropriateness of Library Services and Learning/Information Resources
The Library’s Collection Development Policy provides the criteria by which learning resource materials are selected. This policy is key to determining the appropriateness of facilities, services, and learning/information resources. It serves as
a guide for librarians in working with the college community to develop Library resources.

Professional librarians are responsible for selecting general learning resource materials that support and enhance the curriculum. Selections are made with the intent of making available the widest diversity of views, experiences, opinions, and expressions. With direction from college leadership, the Senior Vice President of Instruction and Student Services works in concert with the Library Director to allocate funds for the collections.

The librarians work to ensure that instructional faculty members have input on the collection development process. The faculty is a vital and essential part of the collection development process. The Library solicits input for purchases and requests recommendations from subject-area specialists within each department ([9]).

The Chipola College Library’s website link is displayed on the main Chipola College website. The Library website provides an array of online services as well as in-house resources for student and staff use. The website directs users to resources, information, services, and links to Chipola’s online catalog. Users with current Chipola IDs may access online information databases with free access to subject websites and electronic books. The website also provides links to other Chipola websites of interest to students and staff. In addition to accessing library resources electronically in the library itself, students may access library resources from any networked computer on campus. Twenty-four hour access to databases, electronic books, and the library catalog is available on any Internet-connected computer on or off campus.

Library services are in place to support faculty. Each academic department has received a library orientation specific to its discipline. Librarians are available to work with instructors or whole classes on subject specific topics.

Documentation:

[1] Florida College Center for Library Automation


[3] Library Borrowing Privileges Agreement


[5] Instructional Resources Committee Minutes

[6] 2006 Chipola College Graduating Student Questionnaire

Chipola College Library Collection Development Policy

List of Departments and Contacts