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The Libraries and Student Success

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The Libraries and Student Success

Presentation for the UNC Division of Student Academic Success

Jen Mayer
Interim Assistant Dean of Libraries
Head of Scholarly Communication
April 20th, 2023





Outline for today

- I. About me & the Libraries
- II. Ways the Libraries support student success
- III. Research shows...
- IV. Questions?



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A little about me

- I'm Jen Mayer, she/her/hers
- Interim Assistant Dean of Libraries
- At UNC since 2016, was previously at the University of Wyoming
- I live in Greeley and love it!
- Professional interests: Library spaces, inclusive workplaces, student success and libraries, author rights, OER, research impact, Digital UNC and open access
- Professional activities: UNC Affordable & OER Committee, UNC HSI steering committee, CDHE OER Vice Chair



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University Libraries: Departments



- [Michener and Skinner Libraries](#)
 - [Administration](#)
 - [Archives & Special Collections](#)
 - [Collections & Discovery](#)
 - [Scholarly Communication](#)
 - [Teaching & Outreach](#)
 - [User & Delivery Services](#)

Libraries: Quick Facts



We currently employ **73** students in the Libraries



The Libraries now have **150** laptops in circulation for student use. Students can also check out equipment, games, state park passes.



Individual research help: So far in academic year 22-23, students have had **644** research interactions with librarians.



Information literacy instruction sessions: So far in academic year 22-23, **2,351** students have attended **108** individual library instruction sessions, and **195** students have taken **14** librarian taught credit courses.



We have **180** databases in a variety of disciplines



Digital UNC now has **1,862** individual pieces of student work, globally accessible. Total downloads as of 3/1/23 are **1,084,606**.

Libraries and Student Success: Belonging

We included students in exhibit gallery and art planning

- During fall 22 the Black is Punk exhibit was curated by Nikaiya Lawson, a student employee in archives and art student. The reception had a total of 130 attendees.
- During spring 23 a new mural was unveiled by recent graduate Brenda Vargas, *Centro de Educación de Aztlán*, the reception and artist talk was hosted by UL and the Division of DEI and had 110 attendees.
- During fall and spring semesters, UL hosted art exhibits sponsored by the Marcus Garvey Center

Created plans for renovation of Michener with student input

Making Libraries website changes based on student input

- Coming soon to main floor Michener! Tech Den

Late night study hours



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Libraries and Student Success: Programming



Aug 2022 Game Night

- ~150 attendees
- event at the beginning of school to welcome students

Oct 2022 Graduate Prep online events

- Dissertation Prep: 96 total attendees
- Master's Prep: 13 total attendees

Palentine's Pub Trivia

Michener Library Carnival



RESEARCH STUDIES

Undergraduate Student Success and Library Use: A Multimethod Study 2020

- How does use of specific library services correlate to persistence for undergraduate students?

Open Educational Resources (OER) Efficacy and Experiences: A Mixed Methods Study 2021

- Does taking a course using OER have a relationship to student academic success?

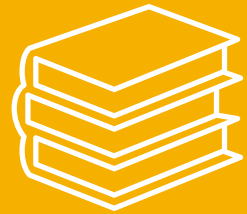


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LIBRARY USE STUDY

When looking at how use of library services together contributes to a student's probability of persisting to the next academic year, we found that:



Students who **check out at least one item** from the library have a 124% higher probability of persisting*



Students who log into a computer in the library have a 50% higher probability of persisting.



Students who have **attended an instruction session** have an 89% higher probability of persisting.

*compared to their peers who did not, separate from any other library services they used



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LIBRARY USE THEMES



1 Space: Tasks Determine Destination in the Library

This theme focused on the physical space of the library. Students particularly noted the rectilinear layout of Michener Library, study rooms, and the variety of furniture types available.



#2 People: Sometimes a Distraction, but Can Offer Help and Comfort

For this theme, students discussed both library employees and library users. Specifically, interviewees acknowledged the “helpful” employees, underutilized librarians, and the “social environment” of Michener Library.



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LIBRARY USE THEMES



3 Place: The Library is a Place People Know and Want to Be

Building off both the Space and People themes, this theme focused on the library as place for the academic community. Some students referred to Michener Library as their “safe space” while others noted a desire for community-oriented programming.



4 Resources & Services: The Library Has What You Need to Get Things Done

This theme explored the resources and services offered by the libraries. Students mentioned the benefit of having access to electronic resources, laptops for check-out, and software packages.



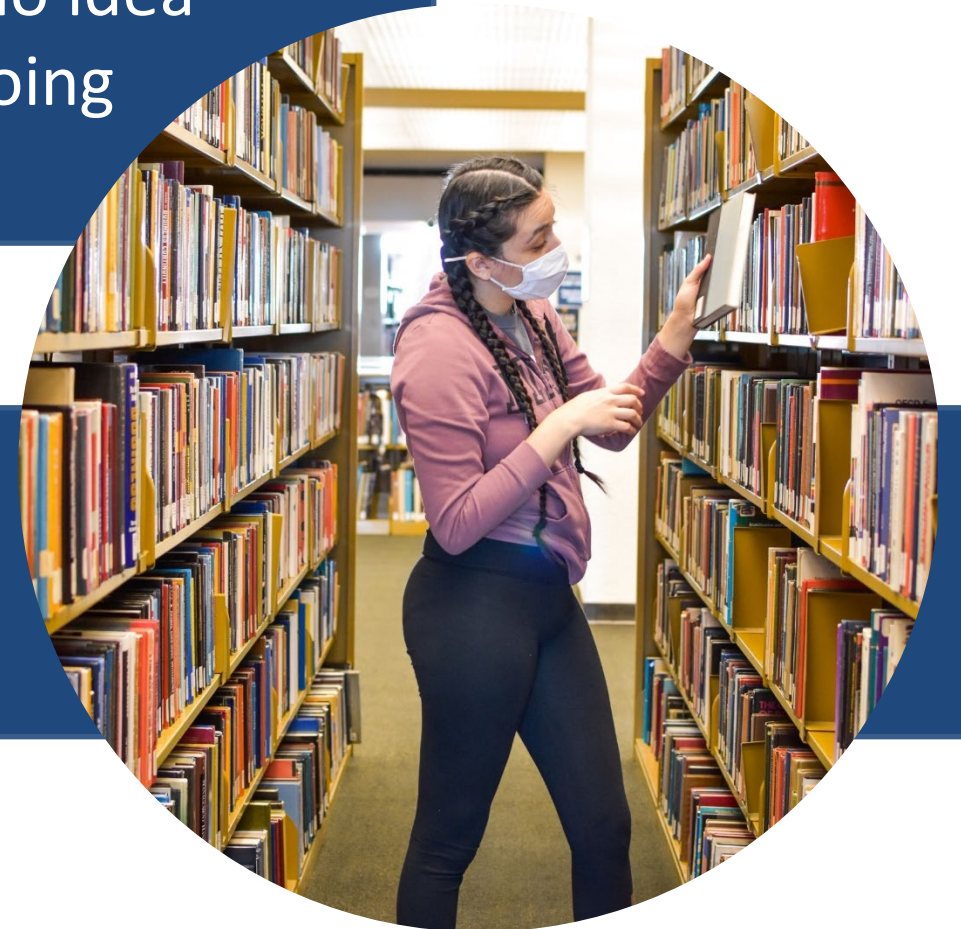
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LIBRARY USE STUDENT VOICES



“I feel like the library is the heart of academia. We are all here to better ourselves for our future—I like that about the library environment—at a coffee shop you have no idea who they are. At the library you are most likely doing something academic.”



“If I am writing a paper, I look at UNC Library for research.”

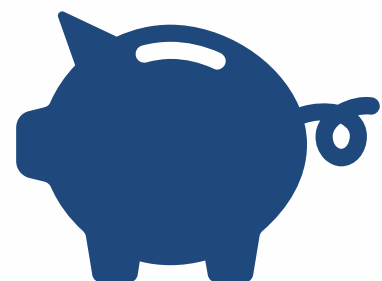


“Everyone knows where it is, you have everything you need, so if you have a group project you go, hey, let’s just meet at Michener Library and use the computers.”



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FREE TO STUDENTS & OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES



Free to Students Resources

- ✓ Materials that are free and online but not licensed for adaptation and redistribution.
- ✓ Library Resources
- ✓ Library Reserves



Open Educational Resources

UNESCO defines Open Educational Resources (OER) as teaching, learning and research materials in any medium – digital or otherwise – **that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license** that permits no-cost access, use, adaptation, and redistribution by others with no or limited restrictions.



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COURSE MATERIALS COST IMPACTS ON STUDENTS



UNC Student Survey Results Fall 2021
59.97% UNC students agree with the statement,
“Textbook costs have become a serious affordability
barrier to me as a student.”

“Paying \$200 for the ability to
take tests and do the homework
for a class is insane.”



“Absolutely ridiculous
prices for a new edition
that may have nothing
more than new page
numbers, but is
required.”

“Buying textbooks in the triple-digit range as a
freshmen taking 100 level courses that didn’t
apply to my major still frustrates me to this
day. My recommendation would be not to
require textbooks in that price range if it does
not directly apply to that student’s major.”



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OER STUDY TAKEAWAYS

Passing Rate (C- and above) OER vs Non OER Class Sections

FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS

5% higher rate of passing the course

PELL GRANT ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

6% higher rate of passing the course

UNDER-REPRESENTED MINORITY STUDENTS

5% higher rate of passing the course

ALL STUDENTS

7% higher rate of passing the course



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OER STUDY TAKEAWAYS

Course Completion Rate OER vs Non OER Class Sections

FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS

9% higher rate of completing the course

PELL GRANT ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

8% higher rate of completing the course

UNDER-REPRESENTED MINORITY STUDENTS

10% higher rate of completing the course

ALL STUDENTS

10% higher rate of completing the course



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STUDENT VOICES AND OER



“I think that more classes should offer OER as opposed to commercial textbooks, one, because of the cost effectiveness of it. And two, because of the learning impacts of it. So, I think there's a double bonus there.”



“I do think it (OER) helped for the overall course grade. And it helped, it was a lot easier to want to stay involved because it feels like your professor is setting you or giving you additional help to like to succeed in the class. And I do think it made a pretty big difference in the grade if I didn't have those open resources, like the Quizlets and stuff.”

“We had really good discussions in that class because there wasn't a cost to it, he just gave it to us and that's what we had. I feel like sometimes in class is when you have to read a textbook, like some people don't read because either one, they don't have it, or two, it just seems boring. So, I feel like with his class it was fun, it was. He gave us resources that weren't boring.”



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Undergraduate Student Success and Library Use article

<https://digscholarship.unco.edu/libfacpub/96/>

Libraries Faculty research

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PowerPoint design by Jenn Beck,
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Questions?



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