

Educational Resources in the ASCC Library

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After two years of construction, American Sāmoa Community College opened its new library on September 2, 2003. The library is located on the east side of campus, facing the island's main road and overlooking the ocean a short distance down the hill. The state-of-the-art, two-level building covers 9,960 square feet. The library is equipped with ten computer workstations, four online public access catalogs, three copying machines, and an elevator that is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

According to the Association of College and Research Libraries standards for community, junior, and technical college learning resources programs approved in 1994, student seating should be approximately 10 percent of the full-time enrollment. The library has a seating capacity for 132 students, which far exceeds the minimum requirements for our 623 full-time students. As a result, the library has been able to maximize its space usage to facilitate study.

The library provides an attractive, accessible, safe, and comfortable environment for its users. Six qualified professionals and support staff provide information and instructional services to the students. The staff assists students in the effective use of library collections and equipment, with a focus on user satisfaction.

Currently, the library holds approximately 25,000 volumes of printed materials, some non-print media and computer software. It subscribes to ninety periodicals and some online databases for full-text reference books, journals, and newspapers. With funding from the 2003 U.S. Jobs and Tax Reconciliation Act, the library is now in the process of updating its collection to support the college curriculum as well as to meet individual research and information needs of the campus community.

Educational Resources Room

The Educational Resources Room was opened to the public on May 31, 2005. It is on the library's second floor and is devoted to housing educational materials such as curriculum resources, reference works, and journals. A staff member has been hired to provide information services and support. The collection contains 1000 volumes of books in circulation focusing on, but not limit to, education and education related fields, i.e., foundations of education, research in education, curriculum and instruction, and teaching strategies. There is also a reference section with over 250 volumes including handbooks, directories, indexes and abstracts, statistical sources, encyclopedias, test books, almanacs, guides, manuals, workbooks, action tools, maps and atlases, globes,

dictionaries, thesauruses, teaching kits, standards for testing, training drills, and school laws. The library subscribes to forty-eight education periodicals and some non-print media.

A digital learning resource called the KnowledgeBox is also located in the resource room. The KnowledgeBox is a K-6 digital learning system for reading, language arts, math, science, and social studies that was designed and developed by Pearson Digital Learning to provide immediate and centralized access to a rich resource of digital media. The KnowledgeBox employs a powerful combination of broadband and server technology that integrates seamlessly with our local area network to deliver instructional digital media to student and teacher desktops on demand. It empowers educators to quickly and easily integrate technology and high-quality core instructional content into the curriculum.

Teachers use the KnowledgeBox to customize lessons and build their own lessons to meet the individual needs of their students. It also makes vibrant, full-motion video and other media available with little download time, and regardless of whether the Internet connection is up or down. In addition, this new technology updates and manages content to reflect current research and the most recent state and national educational standards.

The library also subscribes to Thomas Gale Access, a collection of online databases that include a student resources center and a testing and education reference center. Both centers provide full-text resources that include reference books, journals, magazines, and newspapers.

It is hoped that with the sufficient funding, the Educational Resources Room will be able to expand its collection to cover many more educational resources and materials.

Resources Sharing

Few libraries possess collections containing all the works on a specific subject. This makes it necessary to share material through inter-library loan agreements. Such programs make use of computer technology to make their services more efficient. Similarly, Internet access makes it much easier for library users to conduct online searches and gain access to other libraries' collections. With computer technology, information is rarely further away than our fingertips, and often at a much more reasonable cost.

ASCC library aims to keep up with these developments and is planning to enter an agreement with libraries in the Pacific region for sharing resources and exchanging duplicate materials. The Gifts and Exchange Program in the Hamilton Library at the University of Hawai'i, has also made it possible to expand the ASCC libraries collection.

The Future

The library staff is committed to aggressive acquisition, subscribing to more e-reference materials, maximizing library space for users, and providing more effective library services.

Some of the library's goals are based on the five laws of library science established by the great Indian librarian S. R. Ranganathan (1931):

1. Books are for use.
2. Every reader his or her book.
3. Every book its reader.
4. Save the time of the reader.
5. The Library is a growing organism.

Because most students come to ASCC by bus, and the bus stops running at 6:00 p.m., one of the long-range goals of ASCC library is to set up an educational resources room on the east and west sides of Tutuila, the main island. We also hope to create an inter-island service to the island of Manua. When ASCC begins to offer long distance education via televised courses and video teleconferencing classes, the library will be able to provide information service to end users in remote areas.

New technology and advanced tele-communications have transformed the world into a global village where boundaries no longer divide our schools and library services. In this age of information, librarians therefore need to keep pace with developments in information technology and provide effective information services to meet the educational needs of library users.

A high quality library plays an essential role in providing high quality education. The potential of the ASCC library is unlimited in terms of its collections, digital resources, Internet access, and information delivery services.

REFERENCES

- Ranganathan, S. R. (1931). *The five laws of library science*. Madras, India: Madras Library Association.