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USFSM Library Services Faculty Needs & Strategic Opportunities Assessment 2021

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USF Sarasota-Manatee Library Services:
Faculty Needs & Strategic Opportunities Assessment

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This assessment was undertaken in response to the consolidation of the three USF campuses into one accredited institution, in order to better ascertain how USF Sarasota-Manatee library services could meet increased local faculty needs due to the recent integration into the OneUSF strategic directions as an R1 Research Intensive University. Post-consolidation and in the midst of strategic realignment, USF Sarasota-Manatee campus faculty and students have both new opportunities and challenges with regards to library research and instruction services. In order to calibrate our local efforts and effectively contribute to institutional planning efforts, it became apparent that we needed to survey our local USF Sarasota-Manatee faculty.

The survey questions targeted how the USF Sarasota-Manatee library services could better align to the following USF Libraries Strategic Directions:

**Enhance Service Models:**
Establish a service profile employing emerging methodologies and digital tools to deliver a) innovative, high-impact support for discipline-based and multidisciplinary research among faculty and graduate students and b) efficient, high-impact support for undergraduate student success

- 2.1. Implement, promote, and assess the “One-USF” Libraries digital information and data literacy program that supports faculty and student teaching, learning, and research.
- 2.2. Collaborate with university units to foster student success, support high-impact practices, and extend library reach and impact across the university community.

**Develop Distinctive Collections:**
Develop and promote distinctive and deeply curated research collections of demonstrated value to institutional and global research communities

- 1.3. Promote and facilitate open access as a means to increase the visibility and impact of USF faculty and student scholarly and creative work.

**Methodology:**
A seven-question Qualtrics survey was developed to:

1. Prioritize and rank faculty preferences with regards to current on-site and digital library instructional services,
2. Raise awareness of the new USF Libraries Information + Data Literacy Canvas based workshops
3. Prioritize and rank faculty preferences with regards to current on-site and digital library research services,
4. Ask faculty what additional research support feel they require to meet the scholarly rigor required under OneUSF, and to
5. Promote faculty participation in the USF Libraries ScholarCommons Researcher profiles as a means to improve faculty research visibility and impact.

The survey was sent to 170 unique Sarasota-Manatee campus faculty on 2/26/21. This population included all tenure-track, instructor, and current adjunct instructors based on the campus. Two subsequent follow-up reminder emails were sent during the following two-week
period (2/26-3/12/2021). Overall, 68 faculty completed the survey, representing a response rate of 40%.

Results:

Current Instruction Support:
Faculty reported that their top 3 most important currently offered instruction services are:
1. E-reserves (streaming media and digital course readings)
2. Research consultations for students
3. Synchronous instruction (either face-to-face or virtually)

Many respondents expressed interest in using Library Information + Data Literacy Toolkit offerings to supplement or augment synchronous instruction, but indicated they need more information.

In regards to electronic instruction services, faculty continue to express great reliance on USF Libraries collaborative electronic services such as Ask-A-Librarian chat assistance (72% ranked this as either their 1st or 2nd priority) and ILL / Document delivery (58% ranked this as either their 1st or 2nd priority).

Faculty Needs:
Faculty expressed the need for robust local support by librarians and support staff who could provide more advanced disciplinary research assistance as well as support their capacity for increased research productivity.

The USF Sarasota-Manatee Library Services already provide a small collection of physical textbook and equipment reserves locally to enhance our goals for student success and affordability initiatives. However, faculty comments called for additional local (i.e. physically on the Sarasota campus) collections which directly support the curriculum.

Faculty Impact & Visibility
60% of faculty respondents are interested in participating in, or learning more about, the Faculty Researcher Profiles / Digital USF. Many of these faculty provided contact information to begin the process of setting up their Researcher Profiles.

Finally, many USF SM Faculty responders left notes of thanks for local library services. They are impressed with what we are able to do with so little, and very thankful for our hard work in supporting students and faculty research and instruction.

Response to Assessment Findings:

Preliminary results of this assessment were shared with the USF Libraries Dean, Todd Chavez, in order to help inform him in his conversations with USF Sarasota-Manatee campus leadership. These conversations have been extremely productive thus far and movement is underway to
increase local capacity to provide disciplinary and faculty focused, research-intensive library services. Additionally, Dean Chavez was invited to present at a USF SM campus Town Hall to discuss USF Libraries strategic goals to improve research services to faculty and outline how librarians can collaborate with faculty to improve their research impact and visibility.

USF Sarasota-Manatee campus Librarian, Jessica Szempruch, was also invited to speak at the USF SM Town Hall about the Information + Data Literacy Canvas Workshops in order to promote these to faculty and instructors and answer any questions or concerns that they may have. Local outreach activities will be expanded, including utilizing future opportunities to present at the Sarasota campus weekly Town Hall when appropriate.

Local library leadership will contact all faculty that expressed interest in developing a ScholarCommons Research Profile. Faculty will be specifically asked to provide their CV listing their publications, as well as provide any article pre-prints that could be added to the repository as an open access document. As a benefit of the consolidated library services, staff in the USF Tampa based Digital Scholarship Services department will use these CVs and pre-prints to create the individual Faculty Research profiles as well as collectively create a digital collection of USF Sarasota-Manatee research. This is an important first step to bring recognition to USF SM campus, by increasing individual researcher impact and visibility, as well as collectively grouping and promoting their content and expertise.

Finally, due to the combined impact of USF Libraries consolidation and statewide Florida transition from the Aleph to Alma library platform, catalog, and discovery tool, the local SM campus textbook collection should eventually be integrated into the USF Libraries catalog. As this transition from Aleph to Alma platforms is currently underway, local cataloging will be delayed until all issues pertaining to the catalog transition have been completed and resolved. At that time, the USF SM campus Library Services will require training on basic textbook cataloging. Additionally, should the USF SM campus Library Services acquire additional textbooks to directly support the local curriculum, identifying space to house these local physical collections will eventually need to be considered.