MISSION AND GOALS OF THE LEARNING RESOURCE CENTERS

The Learning Resource Center (LRC) mission is to facilitate and enhance learning by providing essential resources and services, access to innovative technology, instruction in library usage and access to adequate facilities and personnel. The library seeks to promote research activities that meet the informational, educational, and cultural interests of the faculty, students, and staff.

In recognizing the critical importance of support services and resources to the success of the education programs offered by the College, the Learning Resource Centers are designed, staffed, and evaluated to efficiently meet the needs and various ability levels of a diverse student population.

To accomplish this mission, the Learning Resource Centers provide:

- Well-organized, developed, relevant collections of primary and secondary materials
- Organized and accessible collections of audiovisual materials and online databases
- Well-equipped facilities of adequate size to encourage maximum utilization
- Highly competent and professional staff to assist users and carry out the responsibilities of acquisition, organization, and disbursement of resources
- Adequate hours of operation to ensure accessibility to users
- Professional instruction in the utilization of all services and resources
- Coordination of the administration, faculty, staff, and students concerning library resources and services on each campus

Learning Resource Centers are located on all Southern Union campuses (Opelika, Wadley, and Valley), offering resources in excess of 66,000 print volumes and 45,000 electronic books. The collections are designed to complement the education programs and meet the needs of all users in a pleasant physical environment where students can study and conduct research. To ensure convenient, timely, and user-friendly access, service hours are structured to provide accessibility for students, faculty, and staff. The Learning Resource Centers are open 59 hours per week Monday through Friday with library staff available during all operating hours (summer hours are adjusted to match the college hours of operation). Courier service is available for the transport of all resources between campuses per user request.

The Learning Resource Centers' web page is located under the Current Student tab on the school's home page. Here, students, faculty, and administrators are able to access the Mission Statement along with locating materials in the collection through the online catalog (AG-Cat), e-book collections, electronic journals and database resources from the Alabama Virtual Library (AVL), literary critiques with Cengage Literature Resources. Librarians' email addresses are provided in order to answer questions from students or administrators. The page also contains a description of each campus Learning Resource Center, hours of operation, and maps to assist with locating the facilities.
To best serve and meet the needs of the student population, the Learning Resource Center strives to maintain current and relevant library holdings by reviewing scholarly selection journals (Choice, Library Journal, Booklist, etc.) and through faculty submitted requests for materials in their respective areas according to the Collection Development policy (LRC Policy Manual). The Learning Resource Center director is a sitting member of the Institutional Services Committee to remain abreast of curriculum course selections and changes in the educational programs. Resources are systematically reviewed and de-selected and withdrawn as an integral part of the collection development process.

In order to determine if the Learning Resource Center provides appropriate resources, our programs, services and operations are evaluated annually by college personnel utilizing the Institutional Effectiveness Survey. This survey offers college faculty and staff the opportunity to evaluate the library resources and services in an array of categories including quality, relevance, access, availability, and delivery of resources and services. The survey results identify areas lacking maximum efficiency allowing the staff to make needed improvements for optimum services. Additionally, circulation statistics, periodic student surveys, and recommendations from faculty and administration are reviewed to ensure that the library is meeting the needs of our users and is supporting the mission and goals of the College. The Learning Resource Center's mission statement and goals are also reviewed regularly by the staff.

The library provides monographs (print and electronic), information literacy instruction, audiovisuals, on-line databases, computers, copier services, and equipment to support the education programs for students, faculty, and staff. Selections of resources are developed according to the curriculum as described in the College Handbook.

Agreements have been established with public and academic libraries in the college's service areas to provide services and resources to students when the Learning Resource Center is closed or desired materials are located in the collection of the partnered holdings. Understanding the value of partnering with cooperative libraries, the Southern Union librarians review the holdings of perspective libraries to ensure relevance to our academic programs. This process is completed prior to the director formulating an agreement with the agency. The Learning Resource Centers also provide inter-library loan services as requested.