



HLC: 19 Days and Counting...Did You Know?

October 30, 2013

Did you know that Tomlinson Library has over 120 computers and provides services that include Internet access to more than 50 databases, over 5,000 online journals, and other full-text resources?

Self-Study Report, Evidence Item 3D4-3. Tomlinson Library supports effective teaching and learning.

Tomlinson Library staff work with academic departments to maintain and update their resources as well as offer library instruction as requested by program faculty. Each academic department is given a budget and may direct some of it to the library's collection. To ensure that research needs are met for both faculty and students, the library staff conduct access seminars for faculty and students on accessing and using library materials from all CMU locations. Student satisfaction with library facilities and services, as measured by the 2012 ACT Student Opinion Survey (p. 8, item 6), indicated an average of 4.32.

Tomlinson Library is a 68,793-square-foot building that was constructed in 1984. As of academic year 2012, the collection had more than 348,000 volumes (an increase of 276 percent since its beginning). In keeping with the digital age, the library has over 120 computers and provides services that include Internet access to more than 50 databases, over 5,000 online journals, and other full-text resources such as newspapers, legal and reference materials, interlibrary loan services, and access to Prospector, a unified catalog of academic, public, and special libraries in Colorado and Wyoming (Library Data Sheet). In addition to traditional library functions – housing books, periodicals, and reference materials and providing computer and reading areas – Tomlinson Library also provides space for Media Services, distance education classrooms, group study rooms, and a repository for archives and government documents.

The library collection has grown at a rate of 3 - 4 percent annually, but the University's enrollment growth rate for the past three years has averaged 13 percent (12 percent, 15 percent, and 11 percent, respectively). University planners have been aware that, as the campus has grown, the library is in need of expansion. Further, the need to acquire new collections as undergraduate and graduate programs are added, upgrade electronics and plan for adequate digital infrastructure, to accommodate new usage patterns of library patrons, and deal with the problems of an aging building, led to the conclusion that a renovation plan was crucial as the facility reached its capacity. In the tradition of cooperative planning common to CMU's expansion and improvement plans, a preliminary study of the community's needs for library services produced a Library Expansion Plan that is served as the basis for the library's renovation and expansion, scheduled to begin during academic year 2013-14.

To learn more:

- Click here to [read](#) more of the PDF version of the report.
- Click here to [read](#) the related core-component in the web-version of the report.

Please note that in the Self-Study Report, maroon text indicates the HLC's criteria for accreditation, while CMU's response is in black text, with links to supporting documentation identified by blue text (available only in web-version of the report in MAVzone).