



2004 TREXLER LIBRARY FACULTY SURVEY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Trexler Library is committed to delivering the highest possible level of collections and services to the entire Muhlenberg College community. Assessments, such as this survey, are critical to assuring that the library is meeting its user's needs. The 2004 Trexler Library Faculty Survey is intended to measure how well the library is doing in meeting the needs of the faculty, while the 2005 Student Library Survey (in process) is designed to learn how the library is doing in meeting student needs.

The Faculty Library Survey tells an interesting story of how Muhlenberg College Faculty conduct research, use the library (in person and remotely), and value library collections and services; it also reveals what types of initiatives the faculty would like to see the library pursue. The findings are supported by an excellent response rate (45%) by faculty across all disciplines.

The survey results show that the faculty:

- Visit the library frequently, online and in person;
- Utilize the library staff to order new materials, teach instruction sessions, and answer reference questions;
- Value the library's dedication to serving their needs, as well as the library's attention to serving students;
- Are able to conduct some, but not all, of their own research using library collections;
- Value the print and electronic periodical collections the highest, followed by the book and media collections;
- Find library collections to be more adequate for student use than faculty use;
- Greatly desire larger periodical (print and electronic), book, and media collections; and
- Support library initiatives to improve collections and services. Ideas that have high faculty support are:
 - Upgrading the library's Integrated Library System to be able to offer electronic renewals, self-placed holds and recalls, and electronic reserves.
 - Adding full-text research databases and print periodical subscriptions.
 - Increase funding for book and media collections.
 - Bolstering the library's information literacy and instruction initiatives.
 - Fostering better communication between the library and faculty on topics ranging from periodical usage to book, periodical, and media ordering.

The theme of inadequate collections is repeated throughout the survey as the number one faculty library concern. Faculty are shown to cope with these deficits by regularly visiting nearby libraries or by using the electronic resources of their alumni institutions.

The 2004 Trexler Library Survey of the Muhlenberg College Faculty provides library staff and administrators with a quantifiable understanding of how the library is perceived by faculty and what areas the library can pursue to improve its high level of service to the Muhlenberg community. The full survey report can be found online at: <http://www.muhlenberg.edu/library/about/assessment/>