

Academic Libraries Using the *Standards for College Libraries* (2000 edition) and/or *Standards for Libraries in Higher Education* (2004)

Libraries not yet using the Standards have questions regarding a practical way to apply the Standards. Here are some examples of libraries using the Standards, with URL's for those that have posted their results, along with an explanatory note for each.

(1) Governors State University (University Park, IL). [January 2000]

Governors State University was the first to apply the complete College Library Standards, 2000 edition and make them available on the web. The library director at that time was a member of the CLS Standards Committee, which wrote the standards. They used the final draft and had the document ready in January 2000, the month the Standards were officially approved. All eight librarians took part in the process, with different areas assigned to each, and one librarian responsible for compilation of the final document.

They plan to use that report as a baseline and repeat the process every few years, with 2003 the first repeat. The library now has designated a Coordinator of Assessment, who is responsible for implementing the Standards and providing follow-up for the entire process. Improvement of the library is expected with each repeated cycle.

http://www.govst.edu/gsu_library/t_gsu_library.asp?id=1201

– pdf file available here.

<http://webserve.govst.edu/library/assess.htm>

- The original html file is still available here.

(2) Butler University Libraries (Indianapolis, IN). [May 2002]

Using the framework of the ACRL College Library Standards 2000 edition, this self-study was completed in 2002, in preparation for a 2002-2003 institutional review by the North Central Association. The “Accreditation Self-Study” report was posted on the web, but recently removed by institutional policy because of the age the document. The accreditation visit was in March 2003 and the library passed with very high marks. An electronic copy can be obtained by contacting Lewis Miller, Dean of Libraries, at lmiller@butler.edu.

(3) University of Wisconsin–Parkside (Kenosha, WI). [November 2002]

In preparing for a North Central Association accreditation team visit in February 2003, the UW-Parkside Library spent several months preparing a self-study based on the 2000 edition of the Standards. This self-study exercise was a direct result of a workshop designed to provide practical application of these Standards. The web document can be found at:

<http://www.uwp.edu/departments/library/services/selfstudy.htm>

(4) Amherst College (Amherst, MA). [November 2002]

The Amherst College Library was inspired to undertake facilities assessment activities beginning in 2000, when the new ACRL Standards for College Libraries were promulgated

and approved. The College was shortly facing the five-year self-study cycle for reaccreditation. This was an opportunity to examine the mission of the Library in the context of the College's self-study and contribute to the college-wide assessment. More broadly, this was also an opportunity to try out the new ACRL Standards and share what the Amherst College Library learned with their professional community. This example of an assessment using a section of the Standards is found at:

<http://www.amherst.edu/library/assessment/facilities/>

(5) Marquette University (Milwaukee, WI). [May 2002]

Marquette used the ACRL College Library Standards, 2000 edition as the basis for a library review to supplement the self-study narrative prepared for an impending North Central Association accreditation visit in 2004. Marquette agreed to test the applicability of the Standards to university libraries for the ACRL University Libraries Section Standards and Guidelines Review Committee, and concluded that all the major elements are indeed applicable to these academic libraries. This library assessment is a contribution to the evolving national effort of academic libraries throughout the country to conduct self-studies using outcomes assessment and peer comparisons.

(6) Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. (Indianapolis, IN).[June 2002]

IUPUI University Library used the ACRL College Library Standards to review their library as part of the preparation for the campus' North Central Association accreditation visit. They created a website for the review materials and plan to add some additional links to charts, etc. They expect to review and update the document annually. The document can be found at: **<http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/portfolio/nca.html>**

(7) Southern Utah University (Cedar City, UT). [May 2001]

The library has used the Standards to do a summary assessment of the library. Statistical comparisons were made with 10 peers each in two different groups. The assessment document is found at: **<http://www.suu.edu/general/ir/library.html>**

(8) Bridgewater State College (Bridgewater, MA). [September 2002]

In preparation for the self-study for their NEASC accreditation visit in fall 2002, Bridgewater State College library used the 2000 CLS Standards to assess elements such as physical space, interlibrary borrowing, and the library collection, among others. Not all of the analysis that was done based on the Standards was included in the final product (online at **<http://www.bridgew.edu/NEASC/standard7.pdf>**), but the standards were consulted extensively in determining how best to evaluate the library.

(9) Columbus Technical College (Columbus, GA). [2004]

Columbus Technical College library prepared for a Southern Association regional accreditation visit by using the Standards for guidance. They compared the library with five peer libraries using selected points of comparison. They used benchmarking points, reviewed best practices, and identified their own areas of success and areas for needed improvement. Emphasizing student learning outcomes, they reviewed appropriate planning and assessment tools to ensure that library assessment was included in the library's evaluation procedure.

(10) Kansas City Metro Community College (Kansas City, MO). [2004]

The five campuses of Kansas City Metro Community College used the Standards while preparing for a program evaluation. The Standards provided ideas of how to improve, expand, or amend their assessment efforts. They have begun applying some of the concepts for benchmarking and assessment. The application of key elements of the Standards greatly contributed to the preparation of their Program Evaluation Report.

(11) University of Alaska Southeast (Juneau, AK). [2004]

The University of Alaska Southeast is in the process of incorporating the College Library Standards into an evaluation and planning document which will encompass all aspects of library services and facilities. The planning document is based on the Standards and will be used to guide development of formal "faculty workload statements" for the coming year. The workload statement encompasses each faculty member's goals and objectives for the next year and is required by the institution. They are also using the planning document to ensure that the library has appropriate assessment data for all sections of the Standards in preparation for a regional accreditation review in 2009.

(12) South Arkansas Community College (El Dorado, AR). [2003-2004]

The South Arkansas Community College library has used the Standards to develop a strategic plan. They have developed a library self study report, completed an evaluation plan, and revised the library strategic plan; all in preparation for a regional accreditation visit.

(13) Brenau University (Gainesville, GA). [2004]

Brenau is using the College Library Standards to develop a library "culture of assessment." They completed an institutional self-study in the recent past, and are beginning to develop a consistent and comprehensive record of library assessment to support the next self-study effort. They have already developed an extensive working document based on the Standards and have developed an assessment calendar.

(14) Hutchinson Community College (Hutchinson, KS). [2004-05]

The library of Hutchinson Community College is working towards using the ACRL Standards for Libraries in Higher Education to produce input for using the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP), through North Central Association (NCA), for accreditation purposes. The NCA standards, like the ACRL Standards, use a qualitative approach. The AQIP infuses the principles and benefits of continuous improvement into the culture of colleges and universities by providing an alternative process through which an already-accredited institution can maintain its accreditation from the NCA. The library is now identifying how to address the ACRL Standards and the methodologies for doing so, in order to improve library practices. They expect to then tie those to the actions the college is developing as AQIP action projects.

(15) Gustavus Adolphus College (St. Peter, MN). [2004]

They used the Standards while doing a self study in preparation for an external review and upcoming college-wide NCA accreditation visit. The NCA reviewers commended the library for having a strong assessment program. They continue to conduct assessment of student learning on an annual basis, using different measures. They also annually assess

portions of the collection and make comparisons to holdings of libraries in similar institutions; these collection assessments coincide with departmental external reviews.

(16) Southwest Baptist University (Bolivar, MO). [2004]

At Southwest Baptist University the library uses the ACRL standards as the benchmark for the level of services, access, collections, staffing, etc. that they strive to meet and maintain. The standards give them the ability to document the minimum level of services they should provide to students, faculty, and staff. The library has conducted a review this year as part of the university's requirement that, on a 5 year rotation, each academic program complete an Academic Unit Review to assess the program's strengths and weaknesses. In this review, the library identified areas where they met or exceeded the standards; they were also able to determine several areas that need improvement.

(17) Babson College (Babson Park, MA). [2002]

Babson College originally used the 2000 edition in 2002 to evaluate the library in preparation for an accreditation visit. They have recently revised their work using the 2004 standards. They have found the narrative sections of the standards very useful in operational and strategic planning.

Following (listed alphabetically) is a sample of others that reported using these Standards:

(18) American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) & Association of Academic Health Science Libraries (AAHSL). [2003-04]

The AAMC/AAHSL Outcomes Assessment Committee and ad hoc Library Standards Task Force have reviewed these ACRL standards extensively as an exemplary model from which to develop outcomes assessment measures for academic health sciences libraries.

(19) Bethel College (Mishawaka, IN). [2004]

Bethel College has used the ACRL standards as guidelines for evaluating their library. They went through each one, compared the library against the standard, and have attempted to update areas that needed to be improved.

(20) Central Bible College (Springfield, MO). [2004]

Central Bible College is using the standards to do a thorough evaluation of the library. They are making good progress in completing this task. They expect to use the standards to see how well their library measures up to ACRL standards, to identify and improve areas of weakness, and for purposes of accreditation compliance.

(21) College of Mount St. Joseph (Cincinnati, OH). [2002]

Mount St. Joseph used the 2000 ed. of the ACRL College Library Standards in conjunction with the results of a spring 2002 LibQual survey to plan for the future.

(22) The College of Wooster (Wooster, OH). [1999-2000]

In 1999-2001, the College of Wooster did an internal review of their libraries using the new standards as a guide.

(23) Community and Technical College Libraries (CTCL), is a section of the Canadian Association of College and University Libraries. One of the section's most recent initiatives is a review of the ACRL Standards for College Libraries 2000 edition, as they could potentially apply to Canadian community and technical college libraries.

(24) Denison University (Granville, OH). [2004]
Denison University Library's Planning Committee was charged to work on ACRL academic library assessment issues and standards. The Committee established a timeline for assessment of the various areas of an academic library, as enumerated in the ACRL Standards for Libraries in Higher Education. The area of Service was selected as a prototype and the annual Library Staff Retreat was devoted to working on the Services Assessment document. Next the Planning Committee will begin working on assessment documents for the areas of Instruction and Staff.

(25) Doane College (Crete, NE).
Doane College Library has consistently used the standards as they are revised and published by ACRL. The standards are used for program planning, comparative statistics, and leverage with the administration.

(26) Finlandia University (Hancock, MI). [2000]
The library found the ACRL standards to be helpful in preparing the self-study document for their 2000 North Central Association accreditation visit. The institution (formerly Sumoi College) was then transitioning from a two-year to a four-year school. The library used the 2000 edition of the "Standards for College Libraries," along with elements from the 1995 edition and "Standards for Community, Junior, and Technical Learning Resource Programs" to prepare their self-study for the accreditation visit.

(27) Greensboro College (Greensboro, NC). [2003–05]
They have used the ACRL standards in preparing their "Planning Priority Requests" and in making preparation for a regional accreditation review by SACS in spring of 2005.

(28) Maranatha Baptist Bible College (Watertown, WI). [2005]
The college library will be using the Standards this year. They will be writing assessment plans for each of the areas of the Standards.

(29) Medaille College (Buffalo, NY).
Medaille College has continually used the ACRL standards (latest version available) for over 20 years when evaluating the library. They believe the standards have been helpful and have made the standards available to college administrators and anyone else interested. The various versions of the ACRL standards have assisted the library in developing their program and helped them through three Middle States evaluations.

(30) Middle Tennessee State University (Murfreesboro, TN). [2004-05]
MTSU first began using the Standards for Libraries in Higher Education in draft form. They next used the Standards in an informal way to generate evaluative information to be used in their upcoming Southern Association accreditation visit. They are now utilizing the library analysis done using the standards as a source of information for generating the Southern Association compliance narratives.

(31) Mount Saint Vincent University (Halifax, Nova Scotia). [2004]
The library at Mount Saint Vincent University used the ACRL standards along with regionally reported statistics in the process of writing a self-study for an external review.

(32) New Mexico Highlands University (Las Vegas, NM). [2002]
The library of New Mexico Highlands University utilized the ACRL standards as a measure for evaluating the library and preparing a report for the North Central accreditation visit.

(33) Northwestern College (Orange City, IA). [2004-05]
The college library is using the ACRL standards as they develop the library's mission and five-year plan, to be completed in spring 2005. The plan's discussion of assessment and information literacy is drawn from the Standards for Libraries in Higher Education (2004). The institution is preparing for a North Central accreditation visit in 2005-2006 and the library plan complements that effort.

(34) Oglethorpe University (Atlanta, GA). [2004]
These ACRL standards provided a highly organized exercise in reviewing the library's major role. Using the information supplied in this work, it was easy to begin a practical and rational assessment program, one that could be easily tailored to any library environment.

(35) Peabody Library, Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN). [2005]
The Peabody Library at Vanderbilt University plans to use the Standards for Libraries in Higher Education (2004) to evaluate the library.

(36) Providence College and Seminary (Otterburne, Manitoba).
Providence College and Seminary has used the Standards in preparing a report for their institution as they are applying for membership in the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

(37) St. Petersburg College (St. Petersburg FL). [November 2002]
St. Petersburg College is making the transition to a public baccalaureate granting college after 75 years as a community college. In preparing for their SACS accreditation visit in November 2002, the library used the College Library Standards as a guide. They found especially useful the concept of "closing the loop" -- using the results of assessment to set new goals and objectives.

(38) Scott Community College (Bettendorf, IA).
Scott Community College reported they were in the beginning stages of using the CLS Standards, 2000 edition as part of their library plan.

(39) Southwest State University Library (Marshall, MN).
They worked to apply the College Library Standards in order to use the results for a North Central Association accreditation visit.

(40) Trinity Christian College (Palos Heights, IL). [Spring 2002]
In the spring of 2002 Trinity Christian College library was evaluated by Sonia Bodi (North Park University) and Kathy Boyens (Olivet Nazarene University) using the ACRL College Library Standards.

(41) Tufts University (Medford, MA).

Tufts used the Standards for College Libraries in preparing for their recent NEASC accreditation visit and found them to be very helpful.

(42) Universidad de San Andrés (Victoria, Buenos Aries, Argentina). [2003]

The library at the Universidad de San Andrés has been using the ACRL standards to evaluate their library performance. The standards have helped them to identify processes and procedures that can be modified and improved.

(43) University of Michigan-Dearborn (Dearborn, MI). [2002]

The Standards for College Libraries provided a foundation for the library's self study. The standards provided an impetus for implementing an outcomes assessment effort.

(44) University of South Dakota. (Vermillion, SD). [2004]

University of South Dakota's I.D. Weeks Library reported using the ACRL College Library Standards for their current strategic planning. They are doing a mid-point review of what progress they have made toward accomplishment of the goals and objectives in the Strategic Plan. The ACRL standards are being used to complement their own goals and objectives.

(45) Virginia Wesleyan College (Norfolk, VA).

Virginia Wesleyan has used the ACRL standards and found them particularly useful for the library part of the process of preparing for Southern Association regional accreditation.

(46) York County Technical College (Wells, ME).

They are trying to implement the CLS library standards.

We are certain there are a number of other academic libraries that are using at least parts of the standards, but it is difficult to obtain this information. Please let us know if you are anyone else you know is using these standards.

Bill Nelson - wnelson@aug.edu

Bob Fernekes - fernekes@georgiasouthern.edu