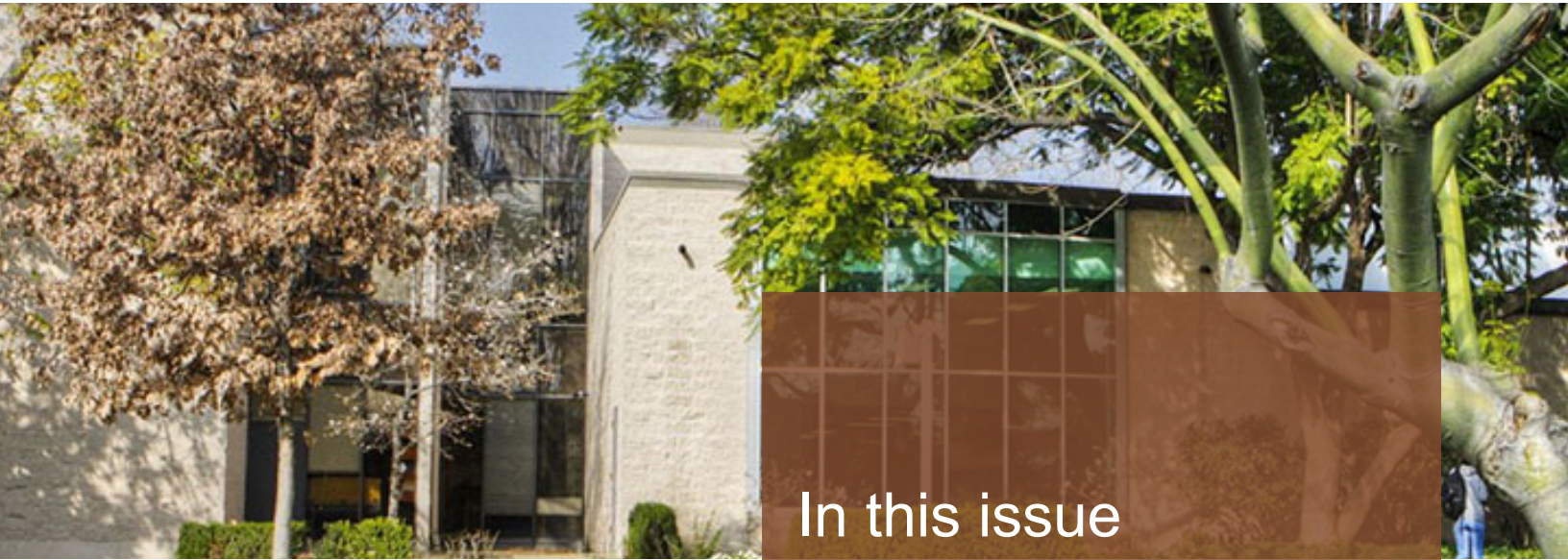
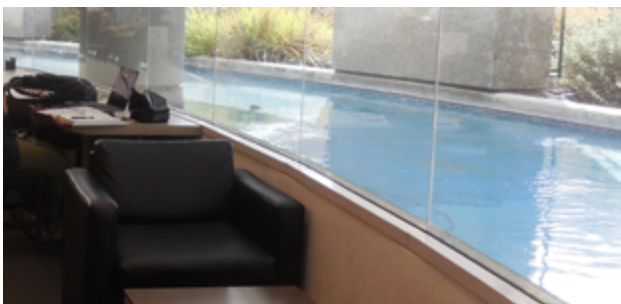


UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Fall 2020 *newsletter*



The word '*challenge*' is the first that comes to mind these last six months. Conversations surrounding libraries are no different, but the '*challenge*' does not lie in the lack of determination. The library remains committed in ensuring students, faculty, and staff continue to receive information, research assistance, and resources they need to continue scholarship and learning.



In this issue

- How the Library Continues to Help You
- Beyond Google: Foundations of Information Literacy Certificate
- Library Chat Slide Out and Online Resources
- Trending vs. Tradition: What Students Value Most

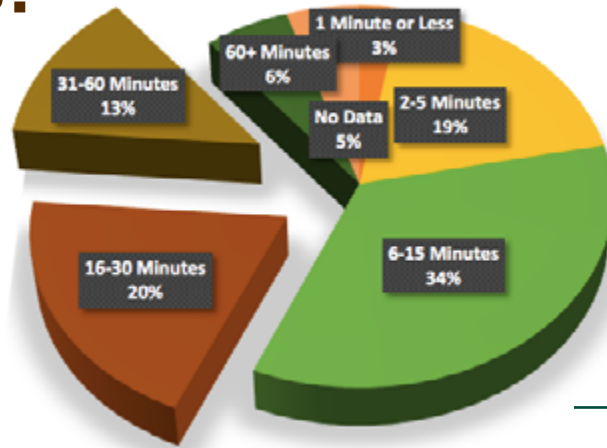
How the Library Continues to Help You

Going remote presents unique challenges, but certainly not a slow down in demand. This provides a glimpse of the continued dedication of library faculty and staff in their commitment to the APU community.

By the numbers:

2,150

questions answered by librarians from April-October 2020



33% of questions were at least 16 minutes in length

66% or 1,420 questions were reference or research related

1,190  **LINK+**

items sent and borrowed April-September 2020
Despite limited access, Link+ is still high in demand

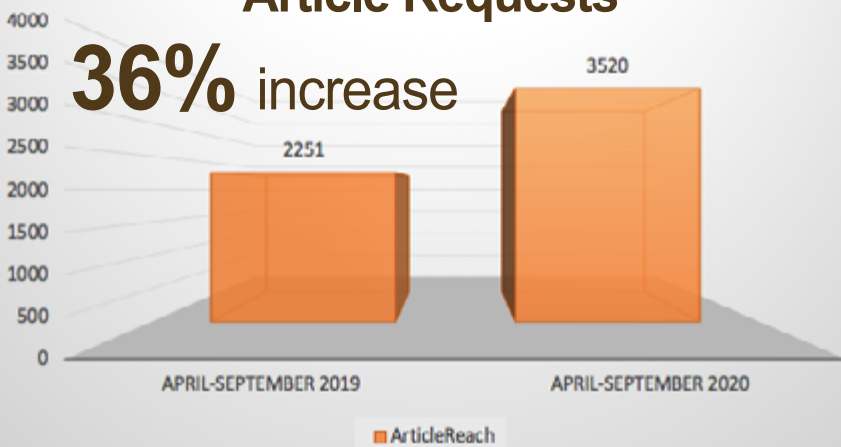
8,011

library items borrowed April-September 2020

2,775 books

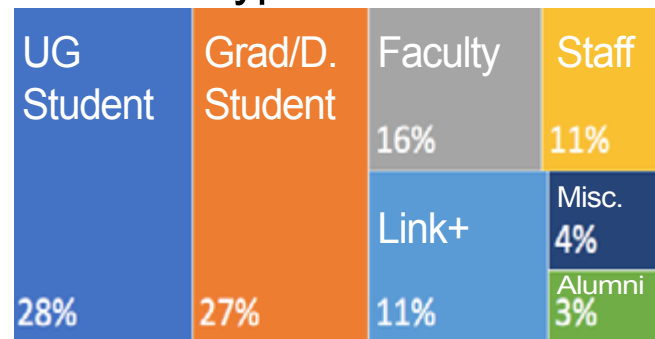
added to the library catalog since April 2020

Article Requests



3,520 articles borrowed through ArticleReach

Borrower type

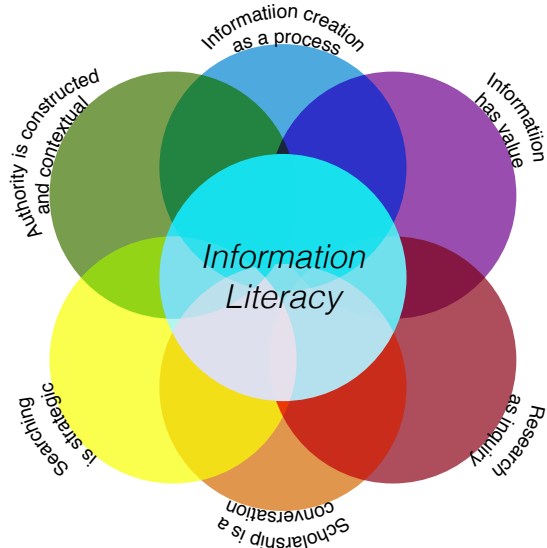


30% increase from last school year

1,198

interlibrary loan items borrowed April-September

BEYOND GOOGLE



FOUNDATIONS OF INFORMATION LITERACY & RESEARCH

Developed by a team of APU librarians, *Beyond Google: Foundations of Information Literacy*, teaches you to think critically in finding appropriate resources, identify how information is produced and valued, conduct quality research activities, and participate ethically in a community of learning. Students, faculty, and staff can enroll for free and earn a module or course certificate. Faculty are also encouraged to integrate this into their online courses. [Access *Beyond Google* here.](#)

University Libraries' goal is to provide you with the resources and help you need for academic research and scholarship. That is why online tools like the new chat slide out are created. This tool, now integrated into APU databases, helps make connection with a librarian easier. Be sure to check it out as well as these online resources:

- Going Online Guide
- Stamps Virtual Theological Library
- Library Answers

Chat with a librarian!

Chat with a Librarian

Your Name

Email Address

Status

Your Question

Start Chat

Freely Available Academic Resources During COVID-19

[Journals & Newspapers](#)

[Databases](#)

Trending vs. Tradition: What Students Value Most



Top student needs:

- *Expected increase in library usage*
- *Individual seating and privacy to decrease feelings of crowdedness*
- *Access to power*
- *Clear markings/ designated areas*
- *Spacious desks for studying*
- *Lighting improvement*
- *Furniture that permits increase/decrease of privacy*

Compared to APU students (SGA report):

- *More study space, especially in Marshburn Library*
- *Private study rooms*
- *More outlets in Marshburn Library*
- *24 hr ID card access study space*

Amidst 21st century ideas of higher education spark the reinventing of college spaces, transforming areas into learning commons with the push for libraries to incorporate collaborative study spaces. But do these trends align with student needs? Are these trends trying to fix something that was never broken in the first place?

Several studies and reports from fifteen years-present day combats the idea of reinventing libraries for non-traditional spaces. Rather, reports find that traditional library space and service still dominates. Additionally, students' perceptions still speak strongly to the library's relevance to their education.

According to several reports, surveys, and research from The Journal of Academic Librarianship, Online Computer Library Center, Inc. (OCLC), Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), and independent resources of The Atlantic and Gensler Research Institute, part of a private design firm that works with colleges and universities across the world, the highest priority in academic libraries is individual study space. For example, lack of privacy is listed as a negative in

Resources:

Alone with Others (JOAL)
College Students Just Want Normal Libraries (The Atlantic)
Libraries are for Studying (Gensler)

OCLC College Students Report
Value of Academic Libraries (ACRL)
Why do students really go to the library?
(Gensler)

the user experience, individual study, even in group or collaborative settings are most observed and requested (up to 75%), while up to 93% of students report individual study as the primary reason for using the library. For collaborative study spaces, more than 90% of participating students said they use it for individual study,

and enrollment), with 77% of students viewing the library as credible/trustworthy and an 88% satisfactory rate of librarian assistance. In addition, students view the library as essential to their college experience, seeing it as more than just a building or a symbol, but a place to study, to gain access to resources,

Individual study remains the primary reason for library use

many reporting they like being in the presence of other students, but still dominantly use it individually. Students also prefer designated study areas to cut down on noise and to meet needs for that present time. In essence, students prefer individual study, but still like to visually see other students and like choice of privacy levels. For instance, interchangeable spaces that can increase/decrease privacy (e.g. partitions). In terms of education, libraries ranked second in priority, ahead of technology and recreation facilities for university selection (prospective students

both physical and digital, and get research assistance. What does this mean for the future of libraries? With multiple reports giving similar results, the future goes back to tradition. With primary focus on student needs, individual study space will bring greater student satisfaction both in terms of facilities, usage, and educational need.

How does this measure up to APU students? Results from SGA claim the same or a similar demand.

By Jennifer Blair, MSLIS, MA,
Assistant Professor,
Head of User Services, Librarian

*Libraries
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in priority
in terms of
education &
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selection for
prospective
students*