

11-7-2013

# 50 Shades of Green: Promoting Campus Sustainability through Library Partnerships

Meghann Toohey

Anne Marie H. Gruber  
*University of Northern Iowa*

Copyright © 2013 Meghann Toohey and Anne Marie H. Gruber  
Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarworks.uni.edu/lib\\_facpub](https://scholarworks.uni.edu/lib_facpub)

 Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

*Let us know how access to this document benefits you*

---

## Recommended Citation

Toohey, Meghann and Gruber, Anne Marie H., "50 Shades of Green: Promoting Campus Sustainability through Library Partnerships" (2013). *Faculty Publications*. 2.  
[https://scholarworks.uni.edu/lib\\_facpub/2](https://scholarworks.uni.edu/lib_facpub/2)

This Conference is brought to you for free and open access by the Rod Library at UNI ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of UNI ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@uni.edu](mailto:scholarworks@uni.edu).

# 50 Shades of Green: Promoting Campus Sustainability through Library Partnerships

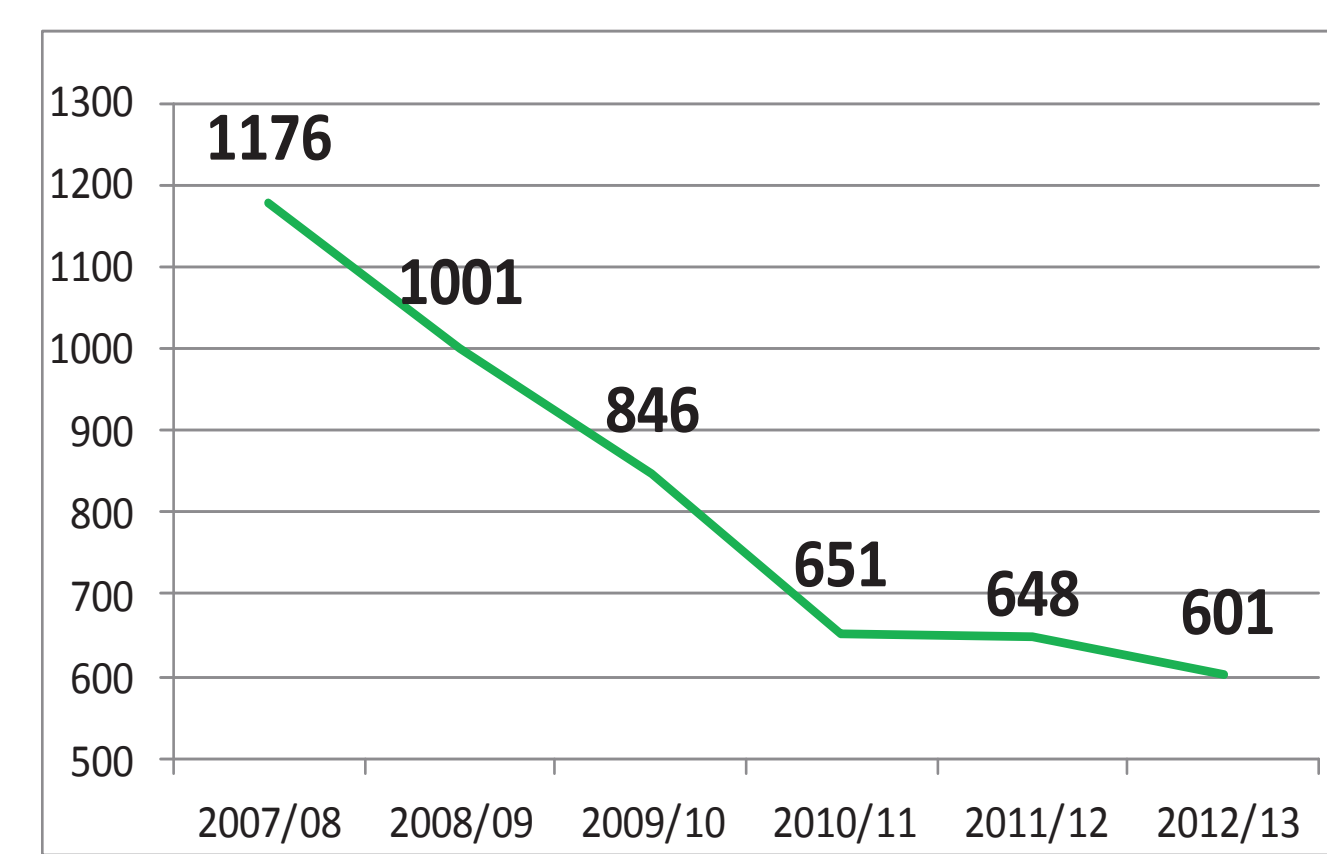
Meghann Toohey & Anne Marie Gruber

## Introduction

The Charles C. Myers Library at University of Dubuque is a campus leader in sustainability. The library staff makes sustainable choices and are a key part of campus conversations. *Going green* fits directly with both the library's mission to support lifelong learning and the institutional mission to encourage stewardship of our natural resources.

## Paper Reduction

1. Instituted print-release system and have printers default to 2-sided



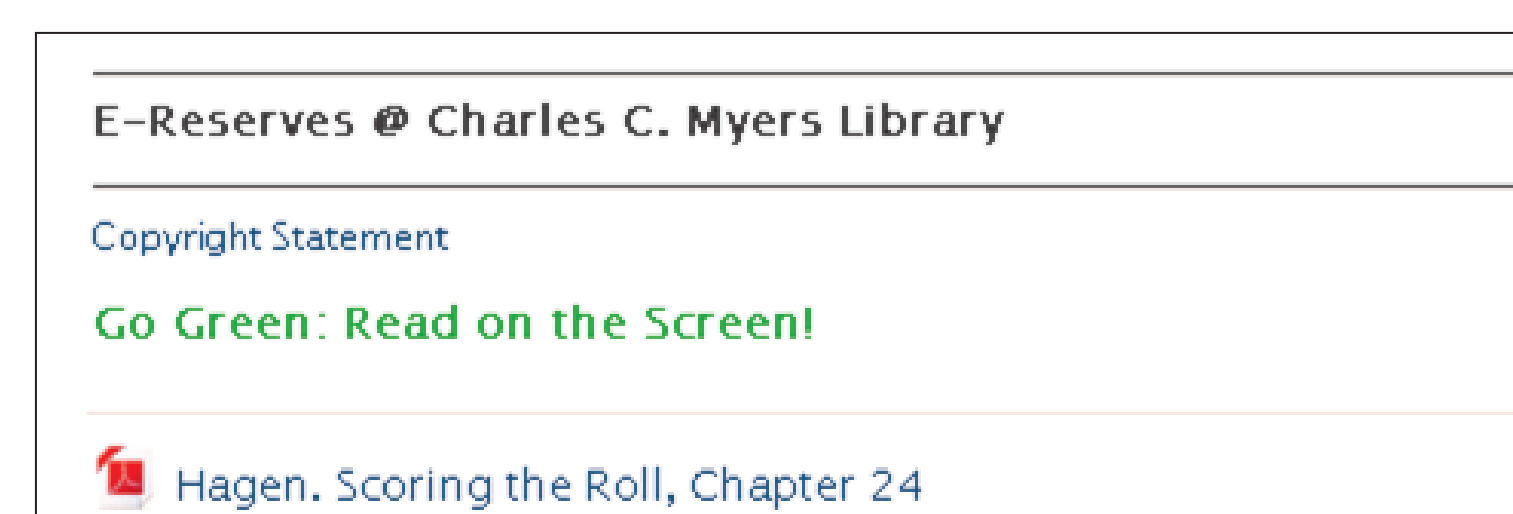
Number of paper reams used in the library per year.  
(Each ream contains 500 sheets of paper.)

2. Signage and online messages give students ideas for reducing printing
3. Provide electronic-focused services:

- Purchased 5 scanners for student use



- Promote the use of e-reserves for courses, including a label encouraging users to read on the screen

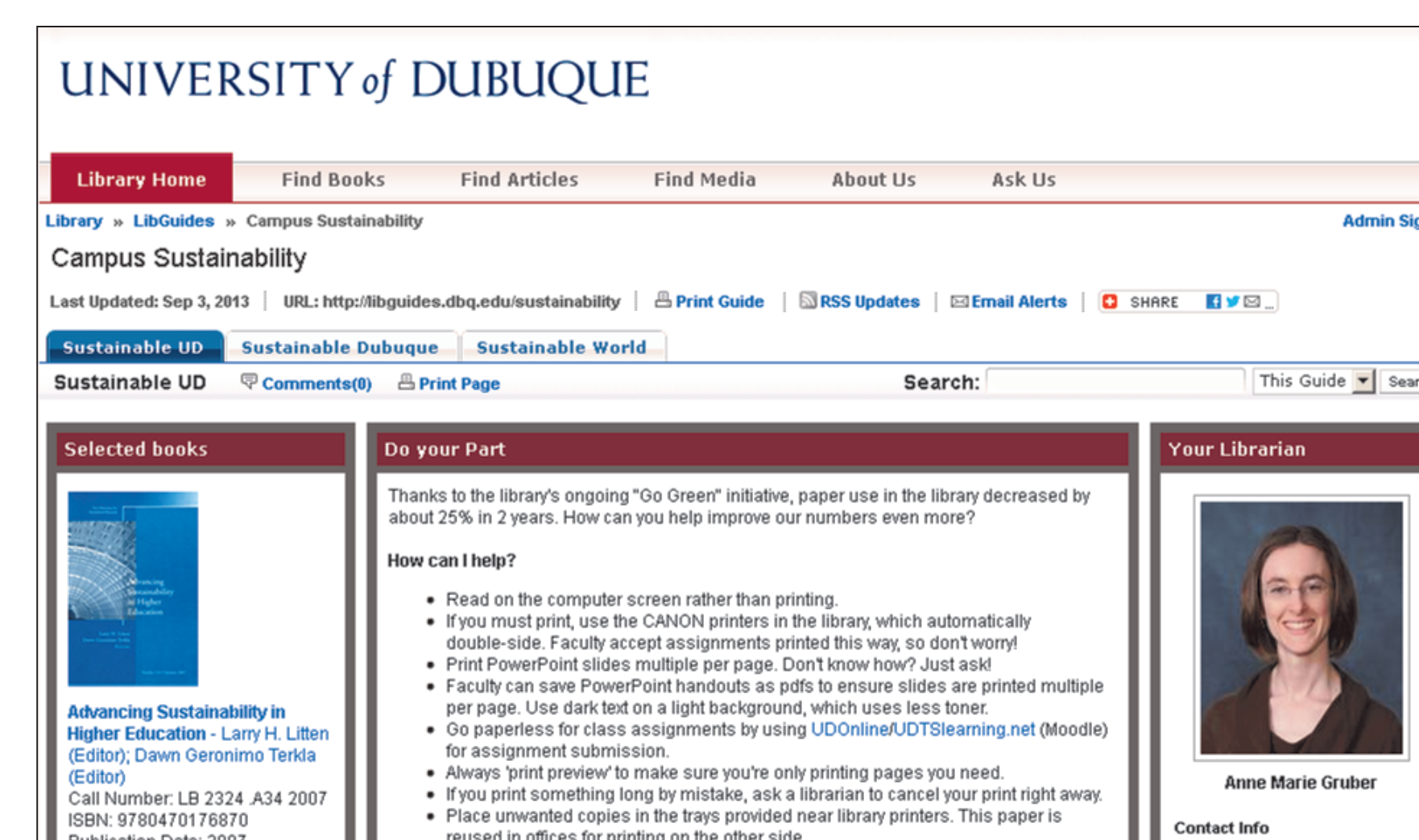


- Expanded e-delivery service to reduce photocopying: staff scan library materials (within copyright), post scans online

4. Staff reuse one-sided paper in offices for printing and scratch paper

## Educational Partnerships

1. Created an online sustainability research guide:  
<http://libguides.dbq.edu/sustainability>



2. Built a collection of campus sustainability materials
3. Web of Life (student environmental organization) collaborations:
  - Participate in Zero Waste Challenge for library study break events
  - Use library recycling bin signage template in other buildings
  - Create displays with environmental themes
4. Campus Green Team includes library representatives
5. Computer Graphics department takes discarded popular magazines for student projects
6. Little Spartans Child Care Center takes clean, used containers donated by library staff for use in children's crafts
7. Career Services puts a donation box in the library for professional clothing drive for students

## Other Activities

1. As we transition materials to online, print copies are recycled
2. Among first buildings on campus to provide recycling bins for more than just paper throughout both public & staff areas
3. Duplicate copies of book club titles are purchased for library Kindles, reducing negative impact & cost of packaging/shipping process
4. Packaging materials and boxes are saved and reused

## Future Directions

1. Library staff wish to expand involvement on campus Green Team
2. Participate in Zero Waste Challenge for additional library events
3. Apply for a grant to purchase/install a water bottle filler that counts how many plastic water bottles are saved



The annual library book sale provides a home for discarded/donated books. Those not sold are recycled or donated to campus organizations. Spend \$5 and receive a Charles C. Myers Library tote bag.

