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Cast a Net: Meshing Libraries with Service Learning


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Common Missions & Goals

Local

- Goal 3: The University Library Instruction Program provides resources and services to meet the campus, distance learner, and community needs. - **Criss Library Mission Statement and Goals**

Community

- Develop partnerships between the university and the metropolitan community
- To enhance student learning, advance community service and initiatives and foster engaged citizenship. - **UNO Service-Learning Academy (2008 Presidential Honor Roll for Community Service)**

National

- "Finally, we need to integrate service into education, so that young Americans are called upon and prepared to be active citizens. ...and for all college students to perform 100 hours of service a year." - **Barack Obama, June 22, 2008, Colorado Springs, CO**

Service Learning (SL) Defined

"Students not only address community needs but also enrich their own education by experiencing the real-world application of academic subjects and developing the habit of active citizenship." - Paul Sather, Director of UNO's Service Learning Academy February 9, 2009

Where is the Library in Service Learning?

"There is simply a research void abutting these two areas of higher education scholarship (service learning and information literacy), each pursuing separate paths of pedagogical justification, virtually oblivious to the other." - John Riddle, *Where's the Library in Service Learning?* 2004

Service Learning Projects at the Criss Library

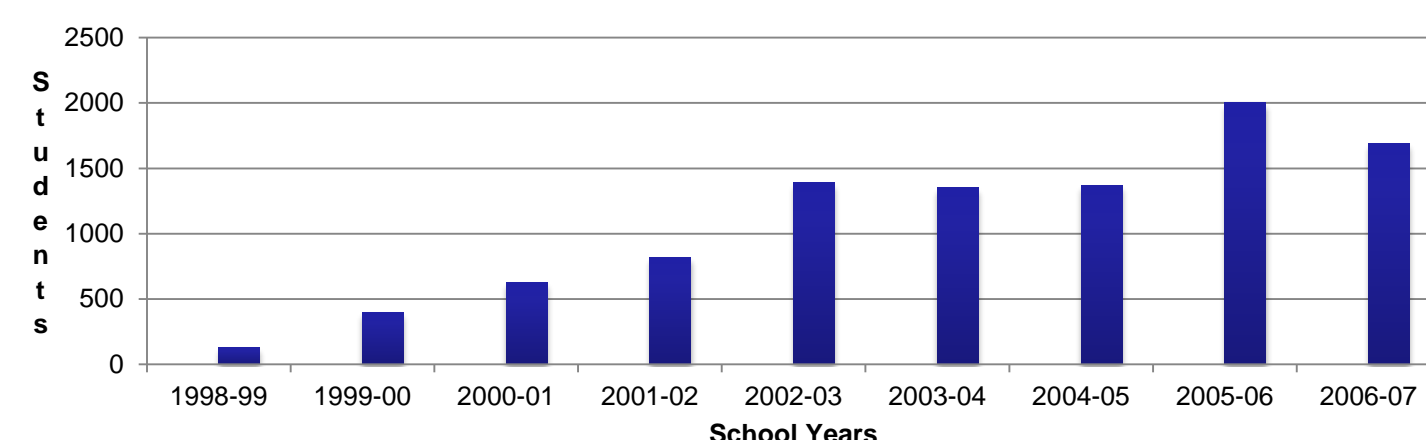
- Library Science Collection Development Class.
 - Created collection development bibliographies for non-profit organizations.
- Library Instruction for an English class.
 - Students wrote position papers regarding the homeless population in Omaha, NE.
 - Papers used by non-profit organizations to design homeless population programs.
- Douglas County Corrections – "Read me a Story" Program.
- Create, develop and maintain a working library for Girls, Inc. of Omaha, NE.



Tying UNO Faculty, Students and Community Partners Together

Sociology	Boys and Girls Clubs
Teachers Education	Girls, Inc.
Construction Engineering	North High School
Communications	Hope Skate

Students Participating in Service Learning



Mesh Your Library with Service Learning

- Work with the Service Learning Director at your university.
 - Be part of the agenda and program planning from the beginning.
 - Develop policies concerning retention and disposition of project's materials.
 - Collect and organize information that will help shape future research.
- Work with public librarians who have found success in community-building efforts .
- Identify Service Learning projects and mesh with library services.
 - Promote your library services with Service Learning faculty, students and community organization partners.

What can the Library Offer SL Projects?

- Mesh Information Research Skills with Service Learning needs:
 - Offer information about the community organization.
 - Budgets, organizational charts, program descriptions.
 - Help the student become familiar with the problems the community agency tries to solve.
 - Assist in finding information for reflection.
 - Information regarding local, national and international social problems.
- Incorporate critical-information thinking skills.
 - Find materials on the pros/cons on a particular problem.
 - How do other communities address the social problem?
 - Access demographic and census information to make comparisons across communities.

