Libraries! Who Needs ‘Em?!

Have you noticed that academic, public and school libraries are experiencing a shift in how they are perceived by their communities and society? No longer just places for books, libraries are viewed as hubs—centers for academic life and research, and they are cherished spaces.

Offering one-to-one help at the Reference Desk, 24/7 virtual access to thousands of e-books and digitized journal articles, and also offering areas and equipment for group and collaborative studying, your campus library is transforming how the University of Wisconsin-Platteville community researches and also reads for recreation. Your library is a place to learn, collaborate, and also to relax.

Digital literacy continues to grow as an important library service, however research shows that though library users are increasingly accessing digital media, they often lack the knowledge to use it effectively in a way that enables learning. Librarians are available to help.

Many government policy and regulatory issues are of importance to libraries and to the people who use them. Policies related to personal privacy, workforce development, and copyright law are a few of these issues, and the answers to questions on these topics are found at your library.

Did you know the Elton S. Karrmann Library offers access to more than 175 databases, which in turn give access to thousands of journal and newspaper articles, documents, photos, videos, and e-books? For a list of databases with brief descriptions of contents visit the library’s Articles and Databases web page.

Facts compiled by the American Library Association:

Academic librarians provide information that serves more than 44 million students yearly—reaching almost 12 million more people than attend college basketball games.

College libraries receive just less than three cents of every dollar spent on higher education.

If the cost of People magazine had risen as fast as the cost of academic library periodicals since 1990, it would cost about $182 for a one-year subscription.

There were 584 students enrolled for every librarian in 2– and 4–year colleges and universities in 2010 in the U.S., as compared with 14 students for each teaching faculty member. (Editor’s note: At UW-Platteville it is more than 1,100 students for each librarian.)

Americans go to school, public and academic libraries more than three times more often than they go to the movies.

Reference librarians in the nation’s public and academic libraries answer nearly 6.6 million questions weekly. Standing single file, the line of questioners would span from Ocean City, MD to Juneau, AK.

Libraries play an important role in giving everyone a chance to succeed because they provide access to materials and resources that typically are too expensive for individuals to purchase—along with professionals who are happy to give assistance.

Who needs libraries? EVERYBODY!
The database *Early Encounters in North America* is just one example of the nearly two hundred databases to which your library offers access. This resource contains over 100,000 letters, diaries, memoirs and accounts by 1,482 authors of early encounters. Particular care has been taken to index the material so that, for example, one can identify all encounters between the French and the Huron between 1650 and 1700.

Access is provided to the UWP community through the library web pages!