Mission

Walter E. Helmke Library creates a virtual and physical environment that supports the IPFW community in efforts to discover and access vital information. Helmke Library provides high-quality information resources, expert information services, and innovative instruction fully integrated with the educational goals of IPFW. As members of the IPFW community, we collaborate within and outside the university to increase information literacy and student success. We value equity of access to and ethical use of information, respect for the privacy of library users, and intellectual freedom. Helmke Library is dedicated to providing stewardship of the human record by collecting, describing, and organizing information. Employing technology wisely, the library offers responsive delivery of resources, customized research consultation, and an environment that encourages independent exploration in the pursuit of academic excellence.

Vision

Helmke Library will be a recognized leader in integrating the library into the mission and life of the university.
Message from the Dean

In August I was appointed the first dean of IPFW’s Walter E. Helmke Library. Previously I had served as associate library director, head of government documents and document delivery services, and digital initiatives coordinator. Although I have been a librarian at IPFW for 25 years, this new appointment did not mean more of the same for me or the library.

Helmke Library has been sustaining knowledge since 1965, but now more than ever, our means to sustain that knowledge are evolving and becoming even more user and Earth friendly. The library’s mission (articulated in 2005) encourages us to create a virtual and physical environment that supports the IPFW community in its efforts to discover and access vital information; to provide high-quality information resources, expert information services, and innovative instruction fully integrated with the educational goals of IPFW; to collaborate within and outside the university to increase information literacy and student success; and to provide stewardship of the human record by collecting, describing, and organizing information.

In support of this mission, Helmke Library identified three major goals in 2008 to continue sustaining knowledge: expand the library’s digital presence on and off campus through our mDON, Mastodon Digital Object Network, and an IPFW institutional repository of digital initiatives; develop a strategy to support academic department information literacy goals, especially as they relate to the IPFW Baccalaureate Framework; and plan and implement library renovation projects in preparation for the Student Learning Commons. These activities are highlighted by the library’s efforts to raise the profile of the library both on and off campus. Its “Think Helmke” campaign has inspired promotional materials, both in print and electronic form. Helmke Highlights, our new e-newsletter; the new library homepage; and this annual report all remind our community that when its members think Helmke…they should think resources, services, and spaces/places.

In keeping with the library’s efforts to support green initiatives, this IPFW Walter E. Helmke Library annual report is printed on recycled paper in a limited quantity for primary stakeholders and distributed electronically to all others.

“Wow, I was just e-mailed the inaugural edition of Helmke Highlights and it is really super. What a great offering.”

Todd Maxwell Pelfrey, Executive Director, The History Center

“Congratulations on the new Helmke newsletter. It is both colorful and informative, and it provides quick updates on the exciting things taking place in the library.”

George McClellan, Ph.D., IPFW Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Think Resources

Two dominant themes in the library’s mission statement are access and stewardship. The library is committed to providing the best mix of print, electronic, and media resources. Our goal is to ensure seamless, user-friendly discovery and delivery options, providing resources where and when they are needed. To achieve this goal, in 2008 we concentrated on purchasing more electronic materials and print materials on-demand. Many print journals, reference books, and indexes were converted to online increasing the library’s e-resource count to more than 40,000. Now, in an eco-friendly fashion, students and faculty can log in to thousands of high-quality resources from any Internet connection, any time of the day or night.

The library is still purchasing print materials, but it has instituted a purchase-on-demand program that uses student and faculty document delivery requests to identify items in need and then purchase them instead of borrowing them. In addition, the library continues to offer special needs grants to faculty for purchasing materials needed to support new courses, enhance collection strengths, or build areas that are inadequate. Nineteen faculty applied for and received a total $45,500 in 2008 from the library's special needs grant program.

Stewardship of the human record is another critical role for libraries. Helmke Library is committed to “preserving information from extinction,” with the continued growth of its mDON, Mastodon Digital Object Network, digital library. In 2008 we launched two new collections, added more than 12,000 items to current collections, and received another $24,000 grant to build the “Making of a People: the Past 150 Years of Civic Growth in Allen County, Indiana” collection.

The American Democracy Project collection marked the beginning of the library’s video collections. The Miami Indian collection, with items from the Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society made available via mDON, added significantly to the number of artifacts and historical documents available online. Digital images from three “Student Art in the Library” exhibitions were added, as well as plays to “OnStage at IPFW” and photographs to the IPFW University Archive Photo Gallery. More collections are in development. The library is proud of its contributions to, and preservation of, the record of IPFW activities and the Fort Wayne community.

http://sail.mdon.lib.ipfw.edu

“Your presentation on the IPFW research resources was enlightening for the students beginning their graduate program.”

Stella Batagiannis, Ph.D, Assistant Professor, IPFW School of Education

http://sail.mdon.lib.ipfw.edu

“I wish to convey my appreciation for the full funding of the proposal ‘Documentary and Experimental Film and Video Collection.’”

Steven Carr, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Director of Graduate Studies, IPFW Department of Communication
Our mission states that “Helmke Library provides expert information services and innovative instruction fully integrated with the educational goals of IPFW.” As members of the IPFW community, we collaborate within and outside of the university to increase information literacy and student success. In 2008 Helmke Library concentrated on expanding its high-quality information services outside of the library. Librarians established a mobile reference service, bringing their laptops to IPFW’s Writing Center and nursing lab to assist students in their research. In addition, librarians and information assistants established an instant messaging (IM) reference service to answer those “How do I get started” or “Where do I find…” questions.

The library’s homepage and online search and discovery tools were enhanced to improve access and discovery. The “Find Resources By…Title, Subject, Type” was launched with more than 400 electronic and print resources. The research tool “Search 360” was also implemented so that users can select multiple e-resources and search them in one simple search. Another time-saving, remarkable tool added in 2008 is FIND IT. With so many electronic journals now available from so many different sources, the FIND IT linking tool in every database automatically searches all of the e-journals available to us and either links the user to the precise source or transfers the citation into a document delivery request. This incorporates the search-discovery-delivery process into one efficient step.

Information literacy is the library’s signature academic program. This year librarians targeted building point-of-need online help tools and more integration into the curriculum. One librarian co-taught the nursing informatics course. Another librarian created online media sessions that were integrated into the online composition course and installed our “Ask a Librarian” link in Blackboard, IPFW’s course management system. Librarians created low-threshold online tutorials for FIND IT, and they produced on-demand visual aids that could be pushed to users during IM and e-mail consultations and could be strategically placed in online course guides.

“Very convenient for people who live off campus. Also, fast and good service.”

IPFW Student

“Instant messaging is a wonderful tool to have access to. My question was immediately answered. It was quite an efficient way to use the library.”

IPFW Student

“I love this method of communicating for library needs—thanks.”

“It was very helpful and I did not waste any more time searching aimlessly and getting frustrated.”

IPFW Student
The library’s first goal urges us to “Create an inviting environment that empowers independent exploration, inspires a community of scholars, and promotes life-long learning.”

Helmke Library sits at the heart of the university. This building provides a quiet place to study, rest, and contemplate, a space where groups work together, a physical collection of materials, a place of virtual access through wired and wireless computers, spaces for displays and exhibits, teaching and learning classrooms, and consulting work spaces for research services. During the next 30 months, it is going to be transformed into the “UnCommon Commons,” with a media commons in the basement, a research commons on the first floor, humanities and social sciences physical collections on the third floor, the Science and Technology Information Center on the fourth floor, and a state-of-the-art IPFW Learning Commons on the second floor that will anchor the southern terminus of the Student Services Complex.

In anticipation of these transformations, rooms on the third floor have been torn down to accommodate the integration of all print journals and books in humanities and social sciences. Quiet study spaces with inspiring views of Alumni Plaza have been created on the first floor. Work has begun on defining, designing, and funding the IPFW Learning Commons. The facility will be an energy-efficient, sustainable space and place, designed to provide an inviting destination for independent and group study, on-site tutoring and consultation, multimedia practice, information-literacy instruction, and technology training. The IPFW Learning Commons brings together multiple campus partners including librarians and support staff from IPFW’s Walter E. Helmke Library; Writing Center consultants; The SPOT Learning Center tutors; STEPS student technology trainers from the Center for Academic Support and Advancement (CASA); student computer-lab technicians from Information Technology Services (ITS); and Studio M lab consultants from the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT), all of whom will offer hands-on, individualized services to foster the success of IPFW students.

“I have never been to a library where the service is so great. I love our library, and I tell my students all the time about the great gift they have to be at a place like this.”

Susan Ahrens, Ph.D., RN, Associate Professor, Director of Graduate Program, IPFW Department of Nursing
Major Accomplishments in 2008

- Launched our “Think Helmke!” campaign, with print and electronic promotional materials
- Hired a new reference and information services librarian as a liaison to the College of Visual and Performing Arts
- Hired a new library dean
- Launched the American Democracy Project digital collection, Helmke Library’s first video collection in mDON
- Implemented an instant messaging (IM) reference service
- Offered coffee and snacks during finals week in collaboration with the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and the Indiana-Purdue Student Government Association
- Launched Find Resources by Title, Subject, and Type
- Launched Search 360
- Launched FIND IT, a linking tool that connects IPFW users to all of their delivery options, including more than 40,000 e-journals
- Launched the library’s new homepage
- Launched the mDON collection, “History of the Miami Indians in Northeast Indiana”
- Received a $24,000 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant for the digital project, “Making of a People”
- Awarded, for the first time, monetary prizes supplied by United Art and Education for first-, second-, and third-place winners of Student Art in the Library exhibitions
- Formed a Library Student Advisory Board
- Used screen-capture software to create brief “low-threshold” tutorials for use online in Blackboard or online course guides
- Established the Learning Commons Council with representatives from the Writing Center, Tutoring Services, STEPS program, CELT, ITS, and other student support services.
- Installed the Walter E. Helmke Library sign above the entrance to the library on April 9, 2008—31 years after the library was named
- Exhibited the IPFW International Photography Contest sponsored by the International Studies Program
- Hosted a welcome tent for returning students at the start of the fall semester
- Purchased with donor gifts two high-definition TV screens and installed them on the first floor to highlight library resources and activities
- Began publishing a bimonthly newsletter, Helmke Highlights
- Joined Better World Books to recycle discarded print materials
- Integrated librarians as co-instructors in a nursing informatics course and English composition classes
Publications


Schulte, Stephanie J. “Integrating Information Literacy into an Online Undergraduate Nursing Informatics Course: The Librarian’s Role in the Design and Teaching of the Course.” Medical Reference Services Quarterly 27, no. 2 (2008): 158–172.


Library staff presented 15 papers or posters at national, regional, or local conferences; selected highlights include:


Schulte, Stephanie J., Rebecca Jensen, Pamela DeKoninck. “Assessing the Impact of Information Literacy Instruction in a Beginning Nursing Professional Seminar Course Using Citation Analysis.” Poster session at the Medical Library Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, May 19, 2008.


Criteria for selection of 12 peer institutions identified in IPFW Strategies for Excellence 2008-2014, p.10

Material expenditures include funds from gifts and the library’s endowment.

IPFW ranks sixth out of 12 in library material expenditures per student FTE

IPFW ranks ninth out of 12 in librarians per student FTE

IPFW ranks last (twelfth out of 12) in total library staff per student FTE
2008

Walter E. Helmke Library

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