

Some Questions from GSA for University Library Committee, Jan 2000

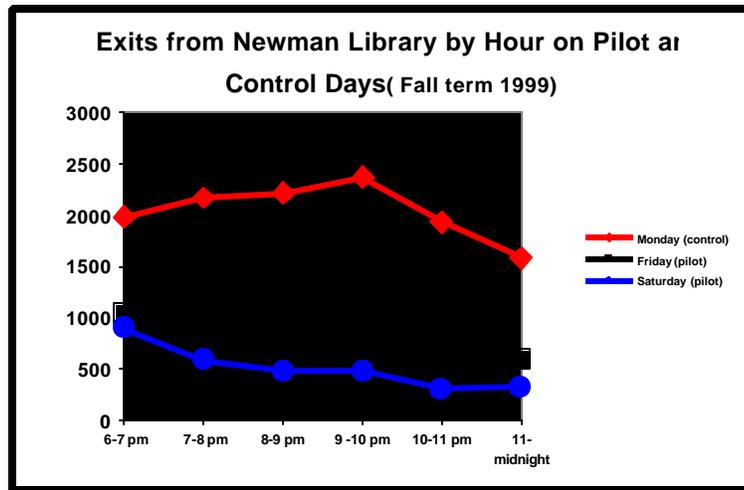
1. A grad student searched for some recent state documents at the library and could not find them. Evidently, they either were late or never arrived. Is the library a repository for official state documents and, if so, why might they be late in arriving. I think this individual said he had to obtain them from UVA or Richmond directly (which took longer).

From Bruce Obenhaus, Documents Librarian
[The library is a selective depository] The Federal and State Depository systems are not perfect, least of all the state. There are many "fugitive" documents discovered in both systems. Some are the result of an agency not believing the document is covered by the law and some are just because the agency does not comply with the law. If only one copy is obtained by the Library of Virginia, the distribution agent for state depository items, instead of the 20 mandated by the law, they rightly keep it as the research library for the General Assembly. [This may be the case here.]

When I become aware of a document need we cannot fill I go to the agency and the state library in an effort to obtain the document. These questions can be referred to me.

2. The GSA was wondering how much additional use have the extended library hours generated? Naturally, we think extended hours are good.

These are the results so far from the fall term. Six to 8pm appear to be more highly used.



3. Request for more private spaces and quiet areas.

We currently have several areas set aside for quiet areas including the 2 group study rooms on the 2nd floor and 1 on the 4th floor. A quiet study area located on the 2nd floor near the entrance to TechConnet provides tables and study carrel space for this quiet area. Throughout the building some areas are designated quiet study areas: 3rd and 4th floor areas along the side of the building facing the drill field; curve of the 4th floor

area; and most of 5th floor except study carrels located near elevators. I suggest that students wanting to find areas that are relatively quiet use the 5th floor since there is no major public service area on that floor. Given the layout of our current building with study spaces integrated into the open stack concept, it is difficult to create totally quiet study areas. As we look at remodeling the Newman facility in the future, this certainly is something we will want to consider as we plan our public and

4. There are also some continuing complaints about copier quality. I had some problems in this respect last weekend myself. Is a procedure for reporting problems posted in the library? Who should we go to?

All problems should be reports to the Photocopy/Cashier service point on the 1st floor or use a courtesy phone located by each bank of machines and report the problem. Concerning photocopy quality, we are continuing to assess that problem and looking at the feasibility of phasing in new machines as auxiliary budgets will allow.

5. There is some confusion over library orientation. Is there a grad-specific orientation? Are there materials such that one could take a walking tour of the library at one's own pace and convenience? We felt that if these things are offered, they should be advertised more and possibly linked to the GSA web site.

From Nan Seamans Director of Instruction (Indeed there is a grad-student specific library orientation piece. Nicole made a presentation as part of the University grad student orientation and GTA orientation. In addition, Ed Schwartz and I talked about technology needs and mentioned the library there.

There is a self-guided tour of the library (brochure at the lobby desk), the virtual tour available on the web

<http://www.lib.vt.edu/research/libinst/virtualtour/>

and an FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) at

<http://www.lib.vt.edu/research/libinst/faq.html>

In addition, Ann and Nicole offer tours of Newman at the beginning of each semester, with the schedule announced on the web site

<http://www.lib.vt.edu/research/libinst/toursked.html>

in display cases throughout the library, and with more information at the lobby desk.

We also stress to grad students the need to contact the appropriate college librarian and have suggested that the CLs find out about ANY program- or college-specific orientations taking place and invite themselves to participate.

We would be delighted to have our own component of the grad student orientation if the Grad School is willing to give us some time in their schedule. We'd also be delighted to work with the GSA in any way to make these resources more widely known and used.

6. The last item pertains to on-line journals and databases. There seem to be several concerns here.

Some journals are not truly electronic but merely digitized images. These are extremely unwieldy, especially for people trying to download them at home through a modem. Can these be converted to a true electronic file (eg the ETDs we must submit)?

We license these products and cannot convert them to other formats. A user has the (old) option of coming to the library or campus and using a speedier machine that is on the campus network.

Some databases (the example I was given was PubMed) will not give you the option of saving reference citations or abstracts. You must order these from the database and pay.

PubMed is a free service from the National Library of Medicine. We list it as a resource for our users because it is one of the more significant databases for the field. I've just tried saving a document abstract and it can be copied

. Lancet 1999 Dec 18-25;354(9196):2106-11

Celecoxib versus diclofenac in long-term management of rheumatoid arthritis: randomised double-blind comparison.

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BACKGROUND: Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) inhibit cyclo-oxygenase (COX), which leads to suppression of COX-1-mediated production of gastrointestinal-protective prostaglandins. Gastrointestinal injury is a common outcome. We compared the efficacy, safety, and tolerability of long-term therapy with celecoxib, a COX-1 sparing inhibitor of COX-2, with diclofenac, a non-specific COX inhibitor. **METHODS:** 655 patients with adult-onset rheumatoid arthritis of at least 6 months' duration were randomly assigned oral celecoxib 200 mg twice daily or diclofenac SR 75 mg twice daily for 24 weeks. Anti-inflammatory and analgesic activity and tolerability were assessed at baseline, every 4 weeks, and at week 24. We assessed gastrointestinal safety by upper-gastrointestinal endoscopy within 7 days of the last treatment dose at centres where the procedure was available. Analysis was by intention-to-treat. **FINDINGS:** 430 patients underwent endoscopy (celecoxib n=212, diclofenac n=218). The two drugs were similar in management of rheumatoid arthritis pain and inflammation. Gastroduodenal ulcers were detected endoscopically in 33 (15%) patients treated with diclofenac and in eight (4%) in the celecoxib group (p<0.001). The rate of withdrawal for any gastrointestinal-related adverse event, most commonly abdominal pain, diarrhoea, and dyspepsia, was nearly three times higher in the diclofenac-treated group than in the celecoxib group (16 vs 6%; p<0.001). **INTERPRETATION:** Celecoxib showed sustained anti-inflammatory and analgesic activity similar to diclofenac, with a lower frequency of upper gastrointestinal ulceration or gastrointestinal adverse events, and tolerability was better. **Publication Types:**

Clinical trial
Multicenter study
Randomized controlled trial

As is true for some other databases, we may or may not have full-text electronic articles for everything in the PubMed database. In that case the user can check in Addison to see if we have the journal cited, and in this case for Lancet we see that we have both a paper version and an electronic version.



If we did not have the publication that was wanted, -- either in paper or electronically, the user could order the article through ILLiad, the interloan system developed at the Virginia Tech Libraries and being adopted by a significant number of other research libraries.

<http://ill.vt.edu/>

Also, apparently some on-line databases get saturated and users can't log in until someone else logs off. Would it be worth it to increase capacity for some of these?

We check the use of the resources and may at times consider increasing the accessibility if we have the funding. Often we can afford only a limited amount of access, e.g., 5 simultaneous logons, but not something in the next higher grouping. We believe it is better to have the product generally available even though users at some times may have to try to do their searching at a less busy time.