Library-related Excerpts from the SACS Off-Site Committee Report

[The report responds to the narratives and support documentation submitted to SACS in fall 2010 by the university. It will be completed by an on-site committee that will visit Tulane in March]

2.9 The institution, through ownership or formal arrangements or agreements, provides and supports student and faculty access and user privileges to adequate library collections and services and to other learning/information resources consistent with the degrees offered. Collections, resources, and services are sufficient to support all its educational, research, and public service programs. (Learning Resources and Services)

Compliance

Tulane University Libraries provide adequate access to library collections and other learning/information resources. The library collections include more than 4 million print volumes in addition to resources in other formats. The collection development policy is comprehensive and includes policy statements for each discipline supported. The acquisitions budget is adequate to support all of the university’s programs and to further develop the library’s special collections.

Access to materials not owned by the university is provided through interlibrary loan and multiple consortia agreements. The university has consortia agreements that provide direct borrowing capability at the regional and state level.

Remote access to services and information resources is also available. Print materials can be made available through a courier service. The collection of e-books and electronic journals are adequate to provide access to a wide variety of subjects and disciplines.

The facilities provide adequate space for users and access to a variety of resources to support the teaching, learning, and research mission of the institution. The Howard-Tilton Memorial Library includes a learning commons with multiple support groups available at a centralized service point. The number of service hours is adequate at the library facilities.

The libraries engage in various assessment activities for the collections, buildings, and services. The libraries have demonstrated a commitment to maintaining the standards and expectations of the Association of Research Libraries.

3.8.1 The institution provides facilities and learning/information resources that are appropriate to support its teaching, research, and service mission. (Learning/information resources)

Compliance

The institution provides the facilities and resources that are appropriate and necessary to support its mission for teaching, research and service. These resources and services are provided by the Tulane Libraries, specialized
research centers such as the archives, the Innovative Learning Center, Technology Services, and the Center for Educational Resources and Counseling. These centers and departments provide Tulane students and faculty with a wide array of resources and support services to ensure academic success, the development of information literacy skills, and the use of technology to enhance teaching and learning.

The Tulane Libraries have adequate collections to support the undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs. The collections have the depth and breadth necessary to support comprehensive research and scholarly activities.

The library facilities have been enhanced with the addition of the Learning Commons. This initiative demonstrates a commitment to best practices in the delivery of library and technology resources and services.

The facilities are adequate for meeting the needs of the university community. Priorities for renovation and enhancement have been identified in the Library Renewal Plan and the Campus Projects and Master Plan update. With the plans, resources, and services available to students and faculty, the Tulane Libraries have demonstrated their compliance with the standard.

3.8.2 The institution ensures that users have access to regular and timely instruction in the use of the library and other learning/information resources. (Instruction of library use)

Compliance
The Tulane Libraries have an effective program for providing users with access to instruction in the use of library and other learning/information resources. Reference services are provided in person and remotely, and provide users with one-on-one learning opportunities.

The information literacy program at Howard-Tilton Memorial Library is structured so that students have opportunities to receive instruction at basic and advanced levels. Information literacy skills are integrated into the curriculum in collaboration with faculty. This may provide the library with additional opportunities to assess learning outcomes from library instruction.

The instructional facilities are appropriate to provide students with hands on learning experiences. This type of instructional environment is a strong asset as it may allow students to retain more of the information skills that have been presented to them.

The libraries do some instruction at the graduate level, but they may want to consider a plan to expand instruction at the graduate level for programs that do not have access to a departmental library. The law library, business library, and health sciences library provide appropriate and discipline specific instruction for users that are enrolled in and/or taking classes in those programs.
The institution provides a sufficient number of qualified staff—with appropriate education or experiences in library and/or other learning/information resources—to accomplish the mission of the institution. *(Qualified staff)*

**Compliance**

*Tulane libraries provide a sufficient number of qualified staff to fulfill the institutional mission. The library has an appropriate organizational structure. The professional librarians are well-qualified based on their experiences and education. There is a promotional plan to ensure that the professional librarians meet established criteria for rank and promotion. Librarians have opportunities to participate in professional development activities. These opportunities are important to maintain an awareness of best practices in the field.*

*The library report expresses some concern that the staff “is small in comparison to other research libraries.” This is a legitimate area of concern that should be addressed as the University continues to recover from the impact of Hurricane Katrina. The fact that the Howard-Tilton Memorial Library is assessing staffing levels is a good indication that staffing priorities will be identified and addressed in the future.*