

Living Up To Other Standards

By **Patty Stanchak**
Staff Writer

Have you ever been forced to live up to someone else's standards? Sure you have. And you know it's not a lot of fun. So you can sympathize with Dr. Emerson Jacob, head librarian here.

This reporter recently interviewed Jacob in order to collect the facts which would make it possible to evaluate our library in accordance with the "Standards for College Libraries," a publication by the American Library Association.

The ALA worked with a group of educators to develop these standards in 1959, and in 1975 the guidebook was revised.

The ALA organized their study into eight areas of standards that should be met by college libraries.

The first standard is called Objectives.

Our library does not adhere to a strict statement

of objectives as defined by the ALA.

However, yearly publication of the library's functions and purposes in the student handbook and annual reports satisfies the requirement of public availability.

The second standard deals with the library collections. Our library exceeded the minimum requirements in this area.

The library's book collection totals approximately 116,000 volumes and the microfilm collection 380,000 units.

Based on the ALA's grading system, our library deserves an "A."

Access to other materials is made available by an Interlibrary Loan system.

If a student requests a book that is not available here, it may be obtained from one of 15 universities in the loan system. Delivery of such items occurs three times a week.

The ALA also stresses the importance of faculty

participation in selection of library materials.

Although the general book collection is made by the library staff, the faculty does participate by making recommendations for purchases.

There is also a Faculty Library Committee which plays a part in library operations.

The library fulfills the third standard of Organization by utilizing a nationally approved organizational system, the Library of Congress system.

In this category, our library also meets the requirements by having subordinate files for special materials and allowing patrons direct access to library materials.

The library rates another "A" under the fourth standard, Staff Size.

Employing seven full-time professional librarians, one part-time librarian and 22 student assistants puts the Capitol library well above

the minimum standards for staff size.

These findings were computed with the aid of a formula which judges staff size in relation to the number of students attending the university and the number of volumes in the library collection.

Delivery of Service is the fifth standard.

This takes into consideration the Interlibrary Loan system, the availability of inexpensive photocopying, the efforts of the library to support the curriculum, sufficient length of circulation periods for materials and adequate hours of public access.

Our library meets all these requirements.

Unfortunately, the library falls short of meeting the demands of standard six. This concerns the facilities available.

The ideal area of space allocated for student seating is 25 square feet per person. In our library the average space per student is 7.4 square feet.

According to the ALA's formula, the number of seats which should be available to Capitol students is 476. Our library can only provide 130.

This is only 27.3% of the required seating.

According to the grading system, our library deserves a "D" under this standard.

Standards seven and eight deal with library administration and budget.

Our library meets the ALA standards for administration and aligns itself quite closely with the ALA's budget breakdown, with approximately 60% of the total budget going for salaries and wages and the other 40% for books, periodicals and supplies.

The ALA states that the ideal library will probably never exist so we shouldn't be too concerned with our library's lack of elbow room.

What is more important is that it meets and sometimes exceeds the required amount of materials and services that should be offered.

The Master Schedule of courses for Summer term 1976 is available in the Records Office. Undergraduate students will not be billed for tuition prior to registration for the summer term.

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