

AERONAUTICS AND ASTRONAUTICS LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT, 2005 – 2006

The Aeronautics and Astronautics Library continues to interact with faculty and students on a personal level as evidenced by its number of “In Person” questions. We have increased the number of undergraduate classes we reach with library instruction, as called for in the most recent Strategic Plan. In addition, the Library Assistant offered several tutorials to Aero grad students on using LaTeX, BibTeX, and EndNote. Recognizing that many students come to us through our web pages, we have also substantially enhanced our web site this year, with access to more resources and mini-tutorials. We worked on replacing several voluminous reference titles with electronic resources. Several computers and our printer were upgraded. We received several thank you messages, and were the recipients of two monetary gifts.

Instruction

Instruction to undergrads was increased from last year, largely by using access to Stellar sites to identify classes that might benefit from library instruction. Instruction activity was follows:

- *16.00 Introduction to Aerospace and Design* ~ 50 freshmen. Instruction offered for the first time. Instruction given as part of a class session. (Prof. reported marked improvement in bibliographies and has asked for a session for next spring)
- *16.S26 Modern Space Science Engineering* ~ 10 juniors. Instruction offered for the first time. Instruction given as part of a class session
- *16.621 Experimental Projects 1* ~ 20 juniors. Instruction in this class had been offered in the evening for the past few years. However, due to student requests, this session was offered as a 45 minute in-class presentation. Received an ovation at the end of the session!
- *Graduate Students* – “Using the Almost Virtual Library for Grad Students” ~ 15 grad students. Attendance was increased this year from 7 to ~ 15 by marketing the class especially (but not exclusively) to incoming grad students. This was largely done by inserting a flyer into the informational packet they receive from the Aero/Astro Department during Orientation in September

In addition to these Aero Department sessions, the Librarian presented a talk on Branch Libraries for Simmons College’s LIS 484, Literature of Science and Technology, and was a volunteer in the 3.091 experiment in Fall 2005. The Library Assistant volunteered at various session on EndNote and RefWorks and offered consultations on the use of BibTeX in EndNote to several Aero Department graduate students

Collections

- Have replaced several reference titles with electronic versions:
 - SAE Aerospace Standards have moved from a loose leaf format to a CD.
 - Deep Space Mission System, Document 810-005 was cancelled in paper and a link to its web site placed into the catalog
 - FAA Advisory Circulars paper version was cancelled and a link to its online site (will be) provided in the catalog
- Staff Assistant set up an Aero Library Wiki to track lost books lists and decisions, Reserves requests, “To Do” List, and created a new less complicated form to send to faculty for Reserves requests.
- Staff Assistant also set up macros to remind staff to take hourly Service Desk statistics and to take monthly door counts. His became the model for several other units.

Library Web Site:

The web site was expanded and enhanced this year.

- A generic “Quick Guide to the Almost Virtual Library” was created to provide general information to all Aero/Astro students. <http://libraries.mit.edu/guides/subjects/aero/quick-guide.html>
- Course Guides were created for 16.00 and 16.S26 and the Guide for 16.621 was streamlined and updated.
- The Aero/Astro Subject Page was greatly expanded with the goal of having it also serve as a generic guide to most students. <http://libraries.mit.edu/guides/subjects/aero/>
- The Aero Virtual Reference page was updated and expanded <http://libraries.mit.edu/guides/subjects/aero/aeroref.html>
- Entire “look” of the Aero Library site was changed by incorporating new colors for all pages.

Equipment:

Library received several new pieces of equipment this year from both the Libraries and from the Aero/Astro Department:

- Our two OPACs were upgraded and we received a third PC to replace our Athena machine. All were upgraded to Dell Optiplex GX270
- Our two remaining Athena machines, paid for by the Aero Department, were upgraded to Compaq DC5100s
- Our printer was upgraded by the Aero Department to an HP Laserjet 2430N

In addition to these computer upgrades, we also replaced one damaged decorative laminated panel on the end of a mobile book range.

Library usage:

Our in house usage continued to decline as our electronic usage increased. This is typical of most MIT Libraries. However we continue to have many more In Person (Away from the Desk) questions than our sister libraries. Perhaps this is why we sometimes seem to have a very different view of what constitutes good library service. The following Table shows differences in Aero usage, compared to other ESL Libraries. Notice the high proportion of In Person questions.

Table 1
Comparison of Away from Desk questions, FY2006

	Away from desk	In person	Local email
Aero	948	406	299
Barker	1155	56	947
Lindgren	244	41	43
Science	1202	156	700

Table 2 (below) shows usage for the Aero/Astro Library this year compared to the two previous years

Table 2
Aero/Astro Library
Comparison of use statistics
2004 - 2006

	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006
Door Count	27,463	23,002	19615
Total questions at desk	2,394	2,248	1904
Away from desk – total	1,024	739	948
Away from desk – in person	625	424	406
Away from desk – email (Ask Us)	48	9	25
Away from desk – email (Direct to Aero)	212	231	299

- Door count decreased 15% this year and a total of 29% in two years.
- Total questions asked at the Service Desk decreased 15 % over 2005 and a total of 20% since 2004.
- Total Away from the Desk questions increased 28% over 2005, but there has been a total decrease of 7.5 % since 2004.
- Away from the Desk – in Person questions continue to be high, having decreased only 4.2% compared to 2005, but show an overall decrease of 35% since 2004
- Away from the Desk - Direct email questions show a steady increase, 30% over 2005 and a total increase of 35% since 2004.

It is interesting to speculate why our door count has dropped so much this year, while our in person questions have shown only a slight decline. It appears that more people are coming to the Library with questions than just coming to get known items. As one would expect, email questions are on the increase. We appear to get very few questions via the ASKUS! Service compared to the number sent to us directly.

Kudos:

We received words of appreciation from several students, and were given two financial gifts:

- "...staff in the Aero Astro Library are amazing" (Graduate student, from 2006 user study)
- "YOU ARE A CHAMPION! Thank you very, very much for this. (My professor) will be happy, as I am now" (via email, Aero/Astro Grad Student)
- "Thanks so much for all your assistance. You both were so helpful. I plan to see you again in a year when I hope to be a grad student here." (CMI exchange student)
- We finalized an annuity of \$50,000 from Professor Laurence Young
- We received a gift of \$2000 from Mr and Mrs. Douglas (MIT 52) Brown

Staff Activities:*Librarian*

- MIT Libraries Branch Managers Group – Chair
- Search Committee : History of Science and Technology Librarian
- Special Libraries Assoc/Aerospace Section – George Mandel Award Nomination Committee
- ASEE/ELD – Membership Committee
- American Society for Aeronautics and Astronautics – Publications Committee

Library Assistant

- Worked on the Aleph 16 upgrade with both Serials and Circulation, including providing training and documentation
- Technical Advisory Group (TAG)
- Selected as branch representative to the new Access Support Group, to begin July 2006
- Trained 8 students on the Aleph upgraded system and on the competencies
- Played on both the Libraries and the Aero/Astro Department softball teams
- Member of the MIT Concert Band
- Taught saxophone and clarinet to students at Community Charter School of Cambridge

Staff Goals:*Librarian*

- Consolidate and improve instruction efforts
- Continue to promote Branch concerns through the new committee structure and via Branch+ in ESL
- Continue to mentor the Library Assistant

Library Assistant

- Take part in testing, training and documentation for Aleph 18
- Look for training to help keep Aero computers operating
- Continue to explore uses for the Aero WIKI

Personnel:

No changes to report.

More information:

<http://libraries.mit.edu/aero>

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