

## Standard 5 Executive Summary

The Library and Information Resources have undergone startling and dramatic metamorphoses in the last ten years. During the last self-study the Elizabeth Sturm Library had not opened yet. The library was housed in the meager space in Red Mountain 315. Since then the library has moved into the Sierra building into a larger space. The Information Resources have similarly changed. During the last self-study the information resources was considered technological with innovations such as telephone registration and limited internet usage. Today, internet connectivity is the norm and tel-reg is a thing of the past with internet registration being the norm. The problem of addressing this standard is that almost no level of comparison is even possible since the changes have been so extreme. We have noted in our committee's research that three areas in our standard need to be addressed as problems the college faces in the future as we move toward our next self-study.

The first concern we have is the issue of funding. The library funding has remained static for the last decade. As we continue to expand our enrollment, our multi-site centers and campuses, and curriculum, our library will need more funding to meet the college's mission to the community. The library will need to hire more librarians, technicians and assistants to accommodate student usage. The library will also need more resources of books, audio-video materials, and databases to support the curricula.

Information Resources will also need more funding. Information resources will always need a large amount of funding to keep the college's technology current. Our computers and technology have a four-year turn around rate. This means that after four

years, the technology is obsolete. If the college wishes to continue to be on the cutting edge of innovative technology, then the funding will have to increase with the increase of students and center/campus growth. This technology also includes the growth of online classes and E-learning in general.

Space is also a problem for the Library and Information Resources. The Library is currently being farmed out by the administration for non-library usage. This runs counter to academic library standards, and must change if our library is to continue to serve our student population effectively. Satellite centers have minimal library space and resources, which fail to meet our college mission. More space will have to be acquired and/or allocated if we are to continue our commitment to academic excellence. Another example of space concerns is with the Disability Resource Center. They are housed in the new student center, but the office space is severely limited. In fact, the new office space may be in violation of ADA standards since the office does not have enough of a turn radius for a student in a wheelchair. This should be corrected immediately, before TMCC runs into this problem with a student.

Space is also a problem in the Information Resources departments. The expansion of services on multi-center/campus sites has pushed the space allocation to a serious matter. The Information Resources have been forced to cram people and resource supplies in a minimal amount of space. Many employees already have doubled or tripled up on office space to accommodate the people. E-learning has two offices to run the entire distance learning program. As our college continues to grow, space will become even more limited as Information Resources have more duties and responsibilities.

Finally, staffing is a critical issue to the Library and Information Resources. The Library is currently below the standards set by academic libraries. Our satellite centers are opened for only a short amount of time on certain days of the week. The library is already fielding complaints about hours of availability because of lack of staffing. This should be corrected, or we will not be able to maintain our service on our satellite campuses. And with Redfield Campus opening on the Mount Rose Highway, the staffing situation will only continue to deteriorate.

Information Resources also faces a staffing shortage. E-learning has only three people to coordinate the entire program. As this program continues to grow at an astronomical rate, more staffing will become necessary to cover all needs of the program. Currently the IT departments have sufficient staffing, but as more students and more centers/campuses open, more staffing will be needed to accommodate our growing technology needs.

The Library and Information Resources have experienced a tremendous transformation during the last ten years. If our college wishes to continue the positive transformations of our college, then the funding, space, and staffing issues will have to be dealt with to assure the college meets its mission with an eye to the future.