

WHY IS LAUC GETTING INVOLVED IN THE AREA OF INFORMATION LITERACY?

Deborah Murphy, LAUC President 4/2/02

The University of California has not yet articulated a systemwide Information Literacy educational outcome for its students. The integration of Information Literacy throughout the academic curricula is a core component of the role librarians play in the entire educational mission of the University. We wish to acknowledge and build upon this existing body of work by gaining systemwide recognition from administrators and faculty who can endorse our current efforts and partner with us to identify new opportunities.

LAUC's role is "to advise the Office of the President, the campus administration, and the library administration on the planning, evaluation, and implementation of programs, services ...in the libraries of the University.". LAUC has historically served as the forum for discussion of important professional issues and has stated the response of the organization in formal Position Papers.

At our Fall 2001 Assembly, UCI put forward a proposal and that "LAUC create a position paper stating the UC Librarians' position on Information Literacy...". The Assembly agreed that LAUC is an appropriate place to start a UC-systemwide discussion. I announced that a steering committee had been formed (members: Manaka, Palmer, Peete and Murphy) to review the UCI proposal and produce a document to use as a basis for wider discussion.

One outcome I expect from this steering committee is a recommendation regarding the creation of a LAUC position paper on Information Literacy within the UC system in the form of a resolution at our Spring 2002 Assembly. If the membership agrees to pursue this, LAUC will use this position paper to educate the UC Academic Senate and senior UC administrators on the importance of Information Literacy and the need to recognize and support Librarians in their work in this area.

UC Librarians will continue to foster Information Literacy awareness and programs after the creation of a position paper. There are many options to explore outside of the LAUC environment. LAUC is not attempting to dictate policy, guidelines or program development. It is here to help start the process. If letting others know that Information Literacy is an important issue, then LAUC is here to help and support us in our efforts.