The Universities at Shady Grove is one of the leading educational institutions in the Washington, D.C. area. It offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs, with a focus on providing high-quality education to students from across the United States and beyond.

**Objectives**

- Establish a broad and enriched learning environment for two communities.
- Expand number, quality and access to information resources on education.
- Extend services that include borrowing privileges, reference, instruction and information literacy training.
- Provide broader professional research expertise and additional service hours.
- Support teacher training and local academic education endeavors.

**Project Description**

- 2007 MOU initiated a partnership between MCPS, USG, and UM Libraries.
- Ultimate goal is to integrate and enhance services and information resources related to education theory and practice.
- MCPS Professional Library collection and staff are merged and services to both communities are provided from the USG Library.
- Library Partnership Advisory Committee with representatives from USG, MCPS and UM provides oversight of the partnership agreement and makes recommendations to promote and support its objectives.

**Challenges Encountered**

- Incorporation of MCPS patrons into UM’s registration and borrowing policies/procedures.
- Integration of additional resources and patrons into circulation and reference services and serving a new clientele for USG staff.
- Adjustment to new environment and facility for MCPS staff.
- Maintenance of parallel circulation systems for MCPS patrons and USG users.
- Merging ‘cultures’ of academic and special/school libraries.

**Results**

- 87% MCPS patrons have been registered in the Aleph circulation system.
- 6395 materials borrowed from MCPS collection from July 2008 to April 2010.

**Future Directions**

- Build a strong Library Partnership Advisory Committee (LPAC) to evaluate and monitor partnership progress.
- Deactivate MCPS Winnebago system and migrate final circulation transactions to UM/USG Aleph system.
- Identify strategies to promote partnership in MCPS and USG communities.
- Strengthen services for MCPS and USG patrons.
- Explore opportunities to expand collaborations with UM and other University System of Maryland Libraries.