BRIDGING LIBRARIES:
THE MERGER OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT LIBRARY AND AN ACADEMIC LIBRARY

The UNIVERSITIES at Shady Grove

Montgomery County Public Schools

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

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www.lib.umd.edu/shadygrove

COMMUNITIES PROFILE

The Universities at Shady Grove.[1] An innovative partnership of 9 University System of Maryland institutions offering quality higher education to 3,600 undergraduate and graduate students at one campus in Montgomery County.

Montgomery County Public Schools.[2] The 16th largest school system in the United States, located in the Washington, D.C. suburbs with a student population of over 140,000 representing 164 different countries as well as 134 languages and a graduation rate of ninety percent. Eighty-four percent (84%) of the teachers have graduate degrees.

University of Maryland - College Park.[3] The state's flagship university, home to 37,000 students in over 100 majors. Ranked 11th among all public U.S. universities and 37th worldwide in a recent international survey, and named one of the top 15 "green universities" in the country.

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

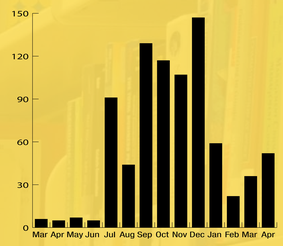
- 2007 MOU initiated a partnership between MCPS, USG, and UM Libraries.
- Ultimate goal is to integrate and enhance services and information resources related to education theory and practice.
- MCPS Professional Library collection and staff are merged and services to both communities are provided from 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.

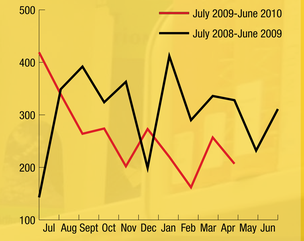
RESULTS

MCPS Patrons Registered in Aleph Circulation Per Month (March 2009 - April 2010)



827 MCPS patrons have been registered in the Aleph circulation system from March 2009 to April 2010.

MCPS Collection Circulation Report (July 2008 - April 2010)



6296 materials borrowed from MCPS collection from July 2008 to April 2010.

TIMELINE (2008-2010)

SUMMER 2008
- MCPS staff and 14,500 books move to USG after weeding and inventory.
- MCPS & UM develop RFP for retrospective cataloging of MCPS collection converting Dewey to LC.

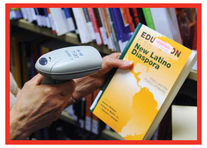
FALL 2008
- MCPS patron borrowing policies, procedures developed. Registration form created and borrower cards ordered. Borrower status, collection codes and item status created in Aleph for MCPS.
- MCPS circulation, online reserve system, document delivery, and distribution to local schools maintained.

WINTER 2009
Contract signed to catalog MCPS collection; 300 MCPS cataloging records per week delivered to contractor; UM begins loading contractor records into Aleph.

SUMMER 2009
Online registration form, reserves and renewal request forms were made available to MCPS patrons.

SPRING 2009
- MCPS items given "Currently Unavailable" status in Aleph during conversion.
- Email reflector created for MCPS patrons to contact USG staff.
- Walk-in MCPS patrons registered as USG users.

FALL 2009
- Registration for services promoted to MCPS staff.
- Retrospective conversion completed.
- Library Partnership Advisory Committee meets for first time to monitor partnership progress.



SPRING 2010
- Expansion and upgrade of databases for MCPS staff
- Library Partnership Committee meets to receive progress reports and plan future directions.
- Direct link established from MCPS web site to USG library web site.

WINTER 2010
Physical integration of MCPS and USG collections completed.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Build a strong Library Partnership Advisory Committee (LPAC) to evaluate and monitor partnership's 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.