The State of America’s Libraries – Academic Libraries excerpts

> **Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation.** Walter Cronkite

> John H. Pryor of the Higher Education Research Institute surveyed incoming first-year college students in the fall of 2011 and found that 60% **do not evaluate the quality or reliability of information**, 75% **do not know how to find research articles and resources**, and 44% **do not know how to integrate knowledge from different sources.**

> The Educause Center for Applied Research collaborated with 195 institutions in 2012 to ask more than 100,000 students a range of questions, including: “**When it comes to your success as an undergraduate, what is the one website or online resource you couldn’t live without?**” The most frequently cited sources were **Google (33%) and Blackboard (16%)**, while only 5% went with the **college or university library website.**

> According to a Project Information Literacy research report, employers are less than satisfied with the information-seeking behavior of today’s college graduates. Unlike college, a sense of urgency often pervades the workplace, where personal contacts often reap more useful results than online searches. Employers are dissatisfied with graduates who settle for finding answers quickly online rather than using both online and traditional methods to conduct comprehensive research.

> A study analyzing National Center for Education Statistics datasets found that academic libraries provide **value** to their institutions: high **retention** and **graduation rates** were positively linked to a number of library variables, especially library hours and the amount spent on serial publications.
Serials costs are rising faster than academic library budgets, with 30% of operating costs devoted to serials in 2009, compared to 21% in 1989.

Data curation, digital resource management and preservation, assessment, scholarly communication, and improved services for graduate students are growth areas for academic libraries.

New scholarly communication and publishing models are developing at an ever-faster pace, requiring libraries to be actively involved or be left behind.

The physical library seems not to be an endangered species. At most, 36 libraries (not branches) actually closed and stayed closed over the past 11 years—that’s 36 out of over 9,000. During the same period, some 200 new libraries opened.

2012, the year of “Big Data,” saw frequent news reports about the collection, use, and misuse of individuals’ private and personal information. Civil liberties organizations, including the ALA, came together as the Digital Due Process coalition, working to reform the USA PATRIOT Act and other laws that address government surveillance and wiretapping. Individuals, legislators, and opinion leaders all advanced proposals to place sensible restrictions on data mining, identity theft, and unconstitutional government surveillance.

Choose Privacy Week will take place May 1-7, 2013 and is an ongoing initiative of the American Library Association that invites library users into a national conversation about privacy rights in a digital age. The campaign gives libraries the tools they need to educate and engage users, and gives citizens the resources to think critically and make more informed choices about their privacy. Visit www.privacyrevolution.org/index.php/privacy_week/ - Watch vimeo.com/11399383

Indiana State University’s Cunningham Library
LIBRARY.INDSTATE.EDU

Special Offer – Find the billboard below somewhere in Terre Haute – take a photo – email to marsha.miller@indstate.edu >> First 5 people to do so get the drink of their choice at the Cup and Chaucer
Billboard up thru April 20 so hurry!