

Florida Library History Project

Webster College Library - Part 1

Webster College began as a business school in 1985 on the third floor of a commercial building in New Port Richey, Fl. As the school grew a decision was made to seek accreditation as a Junior College of Business. Since a college cannot exist without a library the first job was to hire a librarian.

On October 8 a Librarian was hired and a classroom was designated a future Library. Policies and procedures were written in conjunction with other schools in the Webster College System, jobbers were found and materials were ordered. Basic committees were established and requirements in the regulations were incorporated into the policies. During National Library Week 1991 the door opened to the Webster College Library.

The grand opening was Friday May 1. Local officials from the business community, other libraries and government officials were invited to an open house and a catered afternoon tea. Students had their own social for the event in a less formal setting.

In June of 1993 the Library had to move to new quarters. The collection had grown quicker than expected and space on the second floor of the building had to be taken to accommodate the growth and the addition of extra computers. The donation of the Congressional Record by State Representative Karen Thurman also needed space. Several local law offices donated older copies of law sets to the legal program and these sets took even more room.

The Association of Independent Colleges and Schools granted accreditation to Webster College as a Junior College of Business in October 1993. Ordering material for the collection leveled off and the library seemed secure in it's new home.

In July of 1996 the news was released that the school would be moving into it's own building. The lease would not be renewed on the second floor space and the Library had to move back to the third floor. The remodeling in the freestanding

building would not be finished by the time the lease expired on the second floor.

A few items were stored at the new site while other items were stored in an unused office. Splitting the collection was the only solution. The library was crowded; but it was cozy as one student remarked.

In November 1996 the Library began its third and final trip. Moving the school and the Library over the Veteran's Day weekend was a major task. Packing began the week of the 4th. Boxes came from local stores, garages and deliveries to the school. Administrators, Staff, Faculty, Corporate officers and Students appeared on the 8th and the moving started with two phases; furniture and computers, then books and equipment. Somehow the small army had the basics in place for Monday morning and school opened as usual. A few trips back to the old site were needed to retrieve the last book and file during the next week. Although everyone had the best of intentions, setting up the Library took longer than expected with circulation continuing through the entire moving process.

As the dust has settled over the past 18 months the collection has seen the introduction of an entirely new user. The College stresses programs in computer applications, medical assisting, accounting and office technology in both the legal and medical fields. The newest patrons however, are pre-schoolers. The Library in co-operation with a local bookstore, Bookland, has a story hour once a month. This community involvement is done with the America Challenge program. A program for Dr. Seuss on the anniversary of his birthday brought parents to school with their children instead of children with their parents. It was quite a change!

With new programs and new students the collection has moved from DOS to Windows and typewriters to word processors. The collection has moved to a new home three times and been introduced to new patrons. If anyone ever says a library is a stuffy place, they haven't met the Library at Webster College.

Mary S. Barzelay
April 10, 1998

See Also:

- Barzelay, Mary S. "[Library Profile - Webster College.](#)" Flying Solo

(Winter 1998).