

Kate Wise

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Audience Description: Non-traditional students at Cloud County Community College

Cloud County Community College (CCCC) is a 2-year junior college offering associate's degrees, GED-equivalency programs, vocational degrees, and community education programs. The main campus is in Cloud County (Concordia, Kansas), with satellite campuses in Geary County (Junction City, Kansas) and Dickenson County (Solomon, Kansas). The CCCC Library is located at the main campus in Concordia, Kansas, and the Geary County campus also has a small library. Concordia, Kansas has a population of 5,700, and enrollment at the college for 2007 was 2,500 students. The majority of students are female, and white/Caucasian, and are part-time students.

In a 1996 article based on his book, Mike Heery profiles non traditional students. He states that the non-traditional student group may include students that: are over 25 years of age, go to school part time, are taking distance courses, are international or foreign students, and/or have a learning or physical disability. Heery further states that this group tends to do better academically as a whole than their traditional counterparts. However, this group tends to have less time, need more directed and focused assistance using library resources, and find the library intimidating. Although statistical data is not available, anecdotal information seems to indicate that, notwithstanding the part-time status, 30-50% of the students using the CCCC Library may still be considered non-traditional students.

The CCCC Library's mission is as follows: "The [CCCC Library supports and enhances the College's instructional programs by providing services and resources to the College community and the general public in order to promote information literacy - the ability to locate, evaluate and use information." While CCCC does offer some internet courses and telecourses, there are no library programs or materials specifically for distance education students. Students who do come into the library use the computers to browse the internet, or use the reading and study areas for recreational reading or socializing. Class groups meet in the library to conduct research for class work.

Heery, Mike (1996). Academic library services to non-traditional students. *Library Management*, 17:5, 3-13.

Library Mission Statement (2008). Cloud County Community College Library. Retrieved July 2, 2008 from: <http://www.cloud.edu/academic/lrhome.asp>.

Moving Traffic, Inc (2008). Concordia, Kansas Facts, School, Colleges, Weather and More. Retrieved July 14, 2008 from: <http://www.citytowninfo.com/places/kansas/concordia>