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Newman Division of Nursing Community Analysis

Maria Gruener & Kate Wise

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Emporia State University

School of Library and Information Science

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Abstract

A survey of eighty-eight Emporia State University Newman Division of Nursing students and statistical analysis provides a comprehensive view of the community. The community is defined including current demographics and lifestyle profiles as well as local services and resources. The findings will later be used to evaluate user needs and determine areas necessitating library improvement.

## Newman Division of Nursing Community Analysis

This paper is a report of the conditions of the Newman Division of Nursing Library. The information compiled provides a full profile of the library's resources and the habits of its users. This community's profile provides a comprehensive view of the division's demographics and lifestyle as well as the local services and resources. The findings will later be used to evaluate user needs and determine areas necessitating library improvement.

### *Methodology*

The three nursing classes at the Newman Division of Nursing were surveyed as to their competency using library resources, frequency of resource use and satisfaction with library services and resources. The surveys were delivered over a three day period with each class participating on a different day. Completion of the surveys was mandatory by all who attended class on the day the surveys were delivered. In total, eight-eight students were surveyed. Statistical data was also collected from Emporia State University.

### *Physical and Philosophical Overview*

The Emporia State University Newman Division of Nursing Library (NDN Library) is cooperatively owned by both Emporia State University (ESU) and Newman Regional Health (NRH). Located adjacent to main hospital building in Cora Miller Hall on the same floor as the hospital financial offices, it provides access to ESU faculty, staff, and students as well as NRH staff. Its primary function is to assist in the education of student nurses with a secondary function of serving the hospital.

Within the Newman Division of Nursing (NDN), the library serves a central purpose providing the faculty with educational materials, assisting the students with research, and accumulating information on all aspects of the nursing profession. Its mission, as stated in the

NDN Student Handbook, is that of the division, "...to offer a quality baccalaureate nursing program in a rural environment that prepares graduates to function as beginning professional nurses with caring behaviors, leadership abilities, and professional values. The program in its entirety will provide a solid educational foundation for life long learning (p. 2, 2006-2007)."

The NDN library is located on the second floor of Cora Miller Hall, which also houses the NDN. There are two computer labs with six computers and a printer in each. High speed internet is available on these computers. In addition, there is an audio-visual room, and a conference room, as well as the librarian's office. Books are in three bookcases in the stacks, with two cases separate from the stacks containing reference and reserve materials, which are in majority books. Periodicals are in seven book cases against the perimeter sections of the library, with one bookcase displaying current periodicals. A glass-fronted bookcase contains historical volumes. There is a Xerox machine available for student use with a copy card, a restroom located in the library, six study tables with chairs for student use, and one study desk located at the back of the stacks.

### *Student Demographics*

ESU has a fairly uniform student population. Caucasian students occupy the majority at 80.4% with Hispanics the second largest ethnicity at 5.0%. Black students make up 3.8%, Asian/Pacific Islander 1.0% and 3.4% is unknown (Emporia State University, 2006b). See Figure 1 for further information. The average age of the full-time undergraduate is 21. The fall 2006 student to faculty ration was 18:1(Emporia State University, 2006a).

The nursing program has the fourth highest number of declared students at ESU. NDN's ethnic make-up is similar to ESU's with the faculty 100% Caucasian. NDN contains 104 students including 42 sophomores, 30 juniors, and 32 seniors. The number of students accepted

into the nursing program increased starting the 2006-2007 school year due to a shortage of nurses in the workforce. The NDN student body is primarily female with a small male minority (Emporia State University, 2006b). (see Figure 2)

### *Library Demographics*

Students within NDN have access to campus library materials at both the William Allen White Library (WAW) and the NDN Library. According to the 2006 statistics compiled by WAW and the NDN Library for the Kansas Board of Nursing Report, WAW provides access to 49,079 health-related print volumes, 182 health-related journals, and 19 health-related electronic databases. NDN Library contributes only health related items and is used most often due to convenience. It contains 2,545 print volumes, 62 journals, 34 cd-roms, and 238 videos (2006c).

When eighty-eight NDN students were surveyed as part of the ESU/NDN Library and computer survey as to the importance of the NDN Library's resources and services, students deemed them to be very important. They found the computers to be the most important followed by the reference section and assistance from the librarians. (see Figure 3) However, despite the ranking of importance of the resources and services, the students listed the computers as most frequently used followed by assistance from the librarians and the reserves with reference coming in a close fourth. (see Figure 4)

The students are comfortable with and feel competent using most of the NDN Library's resources with the exception of CINAHL and the library's OPAC. (see Figure 5 and 6) As a result, they use CINAHL infrequently. They feel the most comfortable/competent with the resources they use the most frequently such as internet search engines, online directories, and Microsoft Word (2006b).

### *Lifestyle*

As previously stated, the majority of NDN library users are white and female. Most are traditional college students between the ages of 19 and 24, with the average age of all ESU students being 21. The majority (78%) of ESU students do not live in the college-owned or college-affiliated housing, and therefore commute (Emporia State University, 2006a).

Within NDN, students are encouraged to be part of three main organizations. Each class has its own organization, and these class organizations serve in part to promote class interactions and activities, provide formal communication between the class and the NDN faculty and staff, and coordinate specific NDN events. Additionally, the Student Council further serves to coordinate division-wide student activities, address issues affecting the student body and arising between students and organizations, and call division-wide meetings as necessary. Moreover, the Newman Kansas Association of Nursing Students functions in a similar manner to the class organizations and Student Council but also provides social and professional unity and aids in the development of the student into a nursing professional (Emporia State University Newman Division of Nursing, pp. 39-42, 2006a).

In addition to organizations within NDN, other nursing and community organizations are available to the NDN community, including the Kansas Association of Student Nurses, American Red Cross, The Salvation Army, The Farm, United Way of the Flint Hills, Habitat for Humanity, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and numerous other counseling and family service agencies (Emporia Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor's Bureau, 2006).

Major employment for the city of Emporia centers on food production for both humans and animals, and manufacturing. Tyson Foods, a meat packing plant, is the largest employer by far, with nearly 2,500 employees. Other major food manufacturers include Dolly Madison, Menu

Foods Midwest, EVCO, Fanistil Meats, and Safeway Pet Food (Regional Development Association of East Central Kansas, 2007).

There is a variety of entertainment and recreation in Emporia. ESU houses the Eppink Art Gallery and Bruder Theatre, and the city also boasts the Emporia Arts Center, and Flint Hills 8 movie theatre. There are many small museums within Emporia, including the Lyon County Historical museum and the National Teacher's Hall of Fame, as well as numerous parks, including Peter Pan Park, Jones Park, the Emporia Zoo, and Soden's Grove, which includes the All Veterans Memorial (Emporia Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitor's Bureau, pp. 12-19, 2006). ESU's campus offers activities open to ESU students as well. Activities include choral groups and a several bands, dance and theatre, a literary magazine, and a student newspaper and yearbook (Emporia State University, 2006a).

### *Conclusions*

The NDN library serves the very specific user needs of the NDN students, faculty, and staff as well as NRH staff. The general scholastic needs are very specific to the nursing profession and require the library and local resources to provide health-related information. In addition, students' lifestyles can vary greatly from the traditional college student, as they are more involved in the community and student organizations than the average student. Students' survey responses indicated that they are comfortable with technology and subsequently use the computers the more frequently than other NDN library services. It also depicted that students may highly value library resources that are not used as frequently as others. In addition to the NDN Library, other local resources such as the William Allen White Library may also fulfill some of their health-related information needs. Further areas to explore in future surveys include

services the library could provide in connection with the student organizations and ease of access to services and resources.

References

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Appendix

Figure 1. ESU's undergraduate ethnicity, 2006

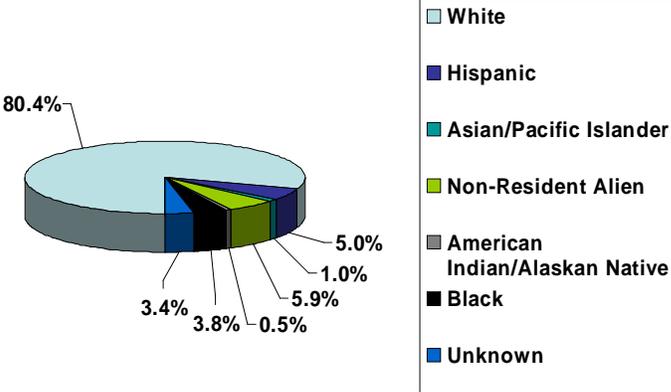


Figure 2. Gender of NDN students

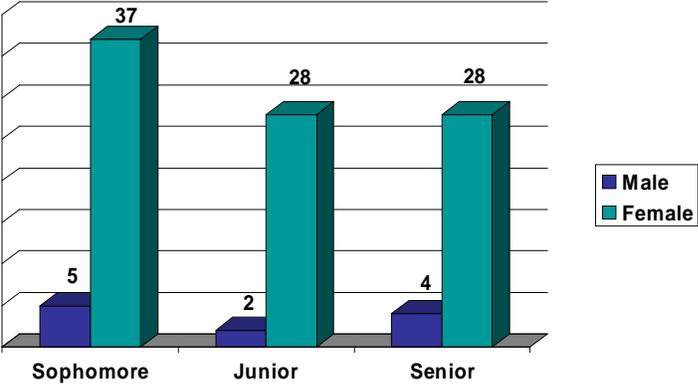


Figure 3. Importance of library services

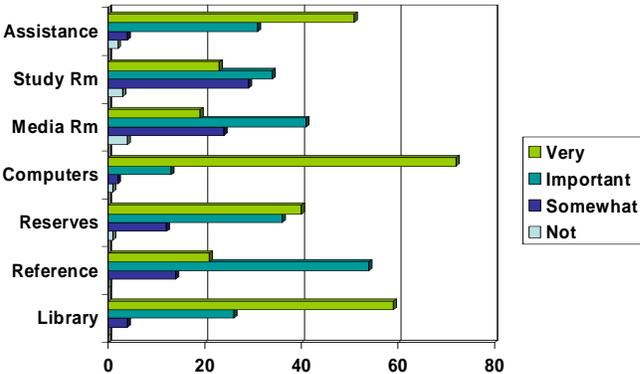


Figure 4. Frequency of use library services

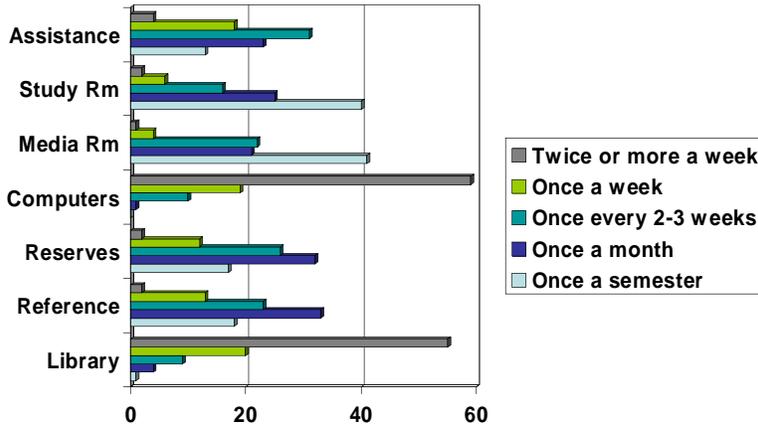


Figure 5. Comfort/competence with use library resources

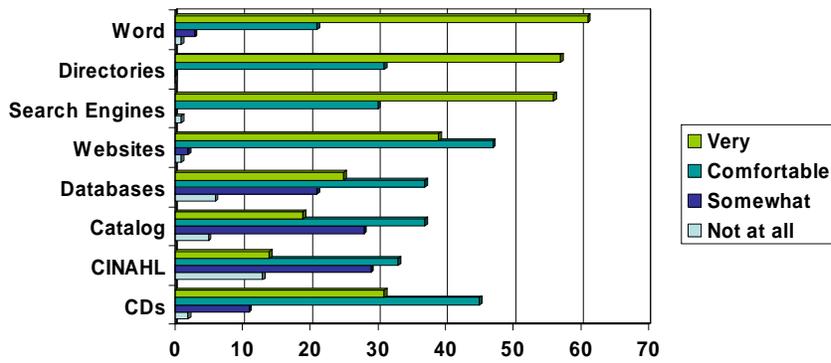


Figure 6. Frequency of use for library resources

