The vision of University Libraries is to serve as a portal to the information landscape. In implementing that vision, our mission is to identify, collect, organize, preserve and provide access to information resources and services in support of the values of Western Illinois University. One way to assess the quality of resources and services is to periodically examine library support for each academic program. Since program reviews are mandated by the Illinois Board of Higher Education, by leveraging the institutional schedule, each cycle of assessment will take eight years.

The central theme in the School of Agriculture is teaching students how to feed the world. The School has three major program options and three pre-professional programs: Agricultural Business, Agricultural Education, and Agricultural Science. Minors include Agriculture, Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Technology Management, Agronomy, Animal Science, Horticulture, International Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation, Plant Breeding, and Urban Forestry. The School also offers pre-professional programs in Agricultural Engineering, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine.

Services

On the Macomb campus, the University Libraries consist of the main Malpass Library and three branch libraries—Music, Physical Sciences and Curriculum; there is a separate a library at the Moline campus. The main library is open 96.5 hours a week during the regular semester. Reference services are available 65 hours per week. Both general open hours and reference hours are adjusted for branch libraries according to needs. In addition to face-to-face meetings for reference, library users may contact library faculty and staff by phone or by instant messaging during scheduled reference hours. Email may also be used at any time. Library faculty and staff also provide help for specific classes and develop guides to library resources for the School and specific courses.

The University Libraries also offer instructional services. Sessions may be scheduled by any University teaching faculty member. By working with individual faculty members, library faculty are able to target sessions to address specific curricular needs of the different classes. Teaching faculty can request library instruction using a form on the Libraries web site at any time. From January, 2010 to August, 2012, 25 individual library instruction sessions have been taught for classes in Agriculture, Agriculture Technology, Agronomy and Horticulture.

The Libraries also provide interlibrary loan services. Requests may be submitted by filling out on forms on the Libraries’ Web site. When received, library users are alerted using university email accounts. Copies of journal articles are posted on the Web for retrieval at the convenience of the requester. Books that are available from member libraries of the state consortium can be requested online by the user. Other requests may be submitted and progress tracked on an interlibrary loan management system. Books may be picked up any time the library is open. Interlibrary loan requests are subject to copyright and privacy regulations.

The University Libraries also provide 47 hours of computer support per week, including some evening and weekend hours. The support includes hardware, software and peripherals. The Library Computer Services Unit maintains all equipment housed in the Libraries. In addition, there is support for
digitization, electronic resource maintenance and web services. The Government Information Unit, which provides reference for Federal and State government publications, the legal collection, and spatial information, provides specialized assistance and instruction for data and geographic information system technology, which is important in precision agriculture. This includes helping students, faculty and staff find government information, and find and use geospatial and soil data and statistics.

**Learning Outcomes**

While scheduling instructional sessions is described as a service in the above section, the intent is learning outcomes that promote the institutional value of academic excellence. Some library faculty members have assignments for instruction and work closely with teaching faculty to constantly refine library instruction sessions. All University faculty can request instruction sessions.

In addition to one-on-one help at scheduled hours at the main Reference desk, Government Publications and the branch libraries, guides created for academic topics and other Web resources are available through various library Web pages. The Instructional Unit has also created instructional videos on basic library-related tasks to help students.

**Access**

The WIU Libraries provide access to many resources, both physical and virtual. Through an online catalog that may be used anytime and anywhere, we provide full access to all materials owned, to which we have subscriptions, or others where University Libraries have access rights. In addition, through participation in a statewide consortium, all library users have access to holdings at more than 70 member libraries. Through other resource-sharing tools, our users can view bibliographic records and holdings information at many other libraries world-wide.

Several general databases cover topics related to Agriculture, including *Academic Search Premier*, *InfoTrac*, *ABI/Inform* and *LexisNexis Academic*. In addition, there are many discipline-specific databases with entries for materials on *Agriculture*, *Agribusiness* and other related issues. These databases include:

- **AGRICOLA** - an index to over 4 million citations to journal articles, books and book chapters, theses and dissertations, government and other publications related to agriculture.
- **Biological and Agricultural Index** - indexes over 380 major journals related to agricultural and biological sciences. Some articles are available in full text.
- **ASABE Technical Library** - the digital library of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, which includes access to both journals and technical reports.
- **ADEC E-Answers** - an openly accessible index to over 250,000 publications from agriculture extension offices and experiment stations.
- **Biological Abstracts** – an index to articles in over 4000 journals in the biological sciences.
- **MEDLINE** - contains references to journal articles in medicine, including veterinary medicine.
- **Science Citation Index** - an interdisciplinary index to journal articles in the sciences. The database provides access to articles in over 3,500 journals from 2004 to the present.
- **Business Source Elite** – an index to articles related to business, including agribusiness.
- **GreenFile** – an index to journal articles related to environmental science and sustainability.
- **ERIC** – an index to publications related to education, including agriculture education.
- **WorldCat** – an online catalog to materials in libraries throughout the World.
Some of these databases provide access to full text articles and publications. Through literature guides and aids created by the library faculty and staff, students also have access to many Web resources from professional organizations, federal and state governments and other agriculture related organizations.

The library Web site may be accessed by anyone at any time. For resources that are only available to university students, faculty and staff, the library provides a proxy server for those in off-campus locations. With authentication, any student, faculty or staff member can use library resources. To facilitate off-campus use, there is a direct link from the library homepage for distance learners. In addition, the library liaison to the department has created a guide [http://wiu.libguides.com/Agriculture] so that students and faculty can easily access relevant resources, including journal articles, extension publications and government information.

### Collections/Resources

We believe that University Libraries provide a learning environment where the infrastructure and available resources are more than sufficient to meet the curriculum and research needs of students and faculty in the School of Agriculture. The University Libraries hold more than one million items. As a Federal Depository Library Program participant, WIU Libraries also selects 65% of all federal publications from that program - a selection rate comparable to that of large research libraries. For scientific and technical areas, WIU Libraries selects more than 65% of the publications available. The WIU Libraries are also a State Depository Library and a Patent and Trademark Resource Center. In–Library users have access to specialized patent and trademark databases available through the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. WIU Libraries’ PTRC provides the campus and community access to a unique body of scientific and technical information and services. Library holdings related to Agriculture include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call Number Range or Location</th>
<th>Number of Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Economics (HD 1401 – HD2210</td>
<td>1612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agribusiness (HD9000 - HD 9495</td>
<td>1027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture (LC Class S, SB, SD, SF &amp; SH</td>
<td>8,451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Government Documents</td>
<td>19,844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois State Documents</td>
<td>945</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With regard to journals, we have access to about 60,000 electronic journals, including over 1,800 titles related to the Agricultural Sciences. When citations are located using the Library databases mentioned above, users can link directly to full-text articles. These articles can then be printed, downloaded or emailed as attachments for further use, depending on the user’s preference. While usage statistics are not kept for student majors, database use statistics are examined annually and may be generated as needed at other times. Circulation statistics for books and government documents may also be generated upon request.

In addition to resources owned by WIU or through subscription, the University Libraries’ are part of a state-wide consortium of 76 Academic and research Libraries. Users can search for materials in a combined online catalog containing over 36 million items. WIU Library users can request almost any item owned by other consortium members, except for items that have limited circulation, such as reference and archival materials; the requested items are delivered through a statewide courier system. When time allows, library users can also request materials that are not available in the statewide consortium through interlibrary loan.
Facilities

The University Libraries consist of the main Malpass Library and three branch libraries, Music, Physical Sciences and Curriculum, on the Macomb campus and a library at the Moline campus. Physical space is about 200,000 sq. ft. for the main library with seating for 1,300 people. The Physical Sciences Library is 4,417 sq.ft. with seating area for about 100. The Curriculum Library has an area of 6,134 sq. ft. with seating for 70.

All of the library buildings support wireless access. There are over 100 computers available for use in the main library. Two computer classrooms in Malpass Library may be scheduled for instruction. Also available are several other computer clusters for general use. Some provide access to specialized databases and software for searching and viewing patents. All of the computers in the instruction classrooms and the Government Information unit (65 in all) are equipped with geographic information system software (ArcGIS). Each branch library also has computers for public use. The library also provides computer support, including some evening and weekend hours. The Digital Commons area in the main library has just been added; it has 20 dual-boot computers with dedicated space for collaborative work with large displays and other specialized hardware and software. This area is a model for other university buildings.

Library Governance, Finance and Administration

The Dean of Libraries reports directly to the Provost and participates in university governance at the same level as Deans of the four WIU Colleges. Budgeting and administration of the libraries are carried out in a similar manner as the colleges, under the same institutional and state regulations governing higher education. Details and proposed changes and adjustments on governance, finance and administration are all described in the annual plan that the Dean of University Libraries submits to the Provost.

Personnel

A liaison from the library faculty is assigned to work with each academic department. That person is responsible for communication between academic departments and the library, including collection development issues. Reference librarians and other staff members are available at various service points when the libraries are open. There are also instructional personnel available for scheduled sessions.

Evaluation

This checklist represents the beginning of a new phase of assessment in examining library support for academic program accreditation and program review. The items of the checklist are those identified in close readings of accreditation requirements of several discipline-specific criteria. In relating to the institutional schedule for accreditation and program reviews, the University Libraries will be able to comply with periodic assessment of library support in a timely manner.

Linda Zellmer, Libraries Liaison, School of Agriculture, August 6, 2012