

Report on the Spring 2024

Survey of Faculty & Staff

Results for Sims Memorial Library



Southeastern Louisiana University
Office of Institutional Research

June 2024

Background

During the Spring of 2024, the Office of Institutional Research conducted a survey of faculty and staff. The purposes of the survey were 1) to assess progress toward meeting the University's strategic planning benchmarks; and 2) to evaluate certain non-instructional units. The non-instructional units included in this year's survey were: Sims Memorial Library, Student Accessibility Services, and the Employee Wellness Committee. This report will provide the results of the section regarding Sims Memorial Library.

Survey Method

The Spring 2024 Survey of Faculty and Staff was sent to all full-time faculty and staff, with the exception of the President, the Vice Presidents, and the IR Director. A total of 1,226 faculty and staff were included in the survey and received the survey via email. The information gained from the survey is reported for the entire survey group and individuals can not be identified with any response. Eleven (11) employees had either opted out of receiving emails or their email bounced, which means 1,215 employees received the email. A total of 431 faculty and staff completed the survey for a return rate of 35%.

Results

How often do you visit the Library?

- Of the 425 faculty and staff who responded, 33% (n=139) indicated that they Never visit and 6% (n=27) visit Very Often.
- The most common response (52%) was that they Occasionally visited

Figure 1

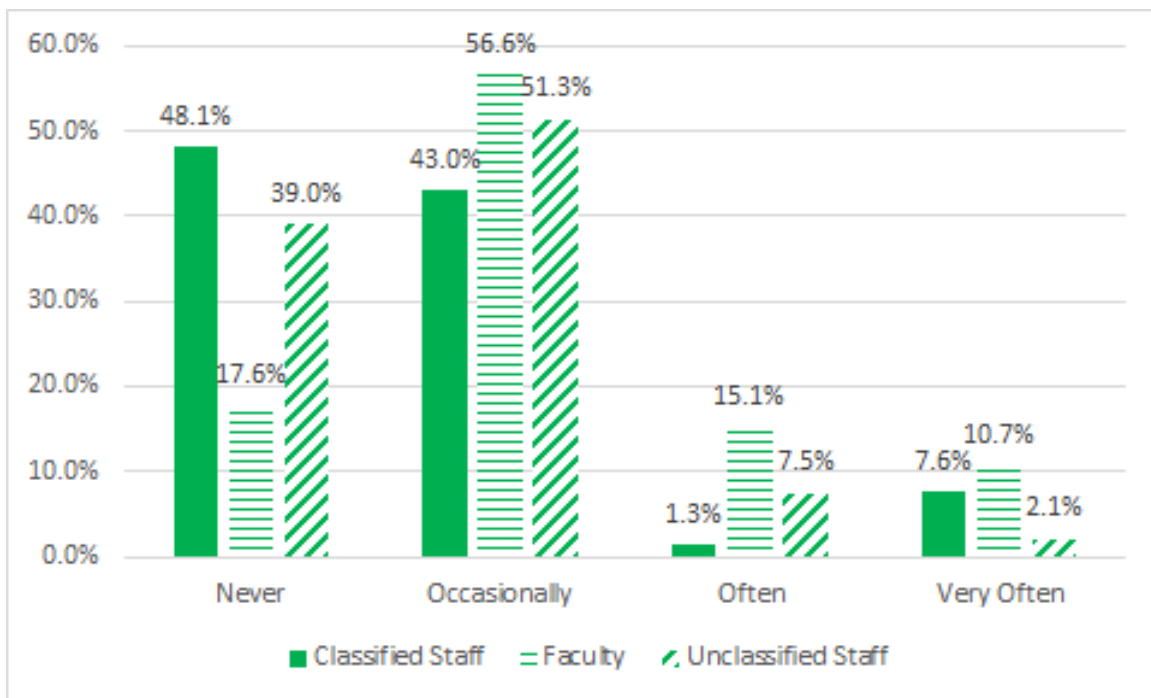


Table 1

	Never	Occasionally	Often	Very Often
Classified Staff	48.1% (38)	43.0% (34)	1.3% (1)	7.6% (6)
Faculty	17.6% (28)	56.6% (90)	15.1% (24)	10.7% (17)
Unclassified Staff	39.0% (73)	51.3% (96)	7.5% (14)	2.1% (4)
Total	32.7% (139)	51.8% (220)	9.2% (39)	6.4% (27)

How often do you utilize online Library resources?

- Of the 425 faculty and staff who responded, 49% (n=172) indicated that they Never utilize them and 16% (n=67) utilize them Very Often.
- The most common response (49%) was that they Never utilize them.

Figure 1

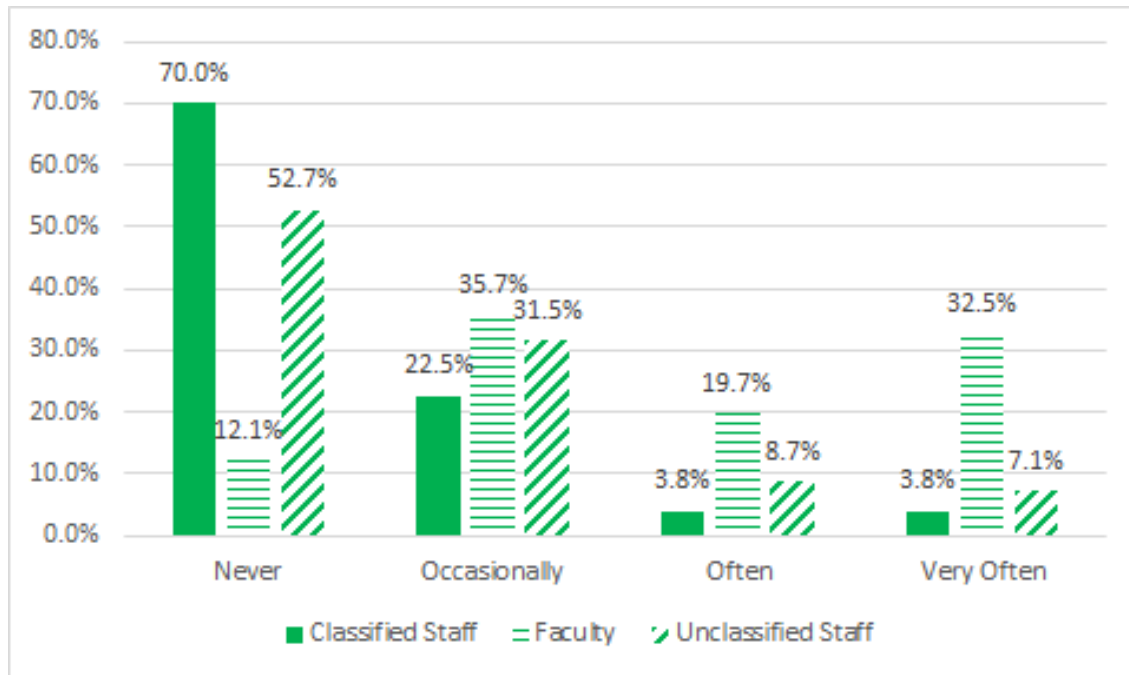


Table 1

	Never	Occasionally	Often	Very Often
Classified Staff	70.0% (56)	22.5% (18)	3.8% (3)	3.8% (3)
Faculty	12.1% (19)	35.7% (56)	19.7% (31)	32.5% (51)
Unclassified Staff	52.7% (97)	31.5% (58)	8.7% (16)	7.1% (13)
Total	40.9% (172)	31.4% (132)	11.9% (50)	15.9% (67)

Do you have any other thoughts or comments to share regarding Sims Library?

- I appreciate the efforts to continue to evolve and remain relevant to the modern student.
- Staff has always been able to assist me and answer any question I may have.
- Everyone is always so kind and helpful.
- Please increase the funding for the Library. Several items had to be cut due to budget constraints. The Library is crucial to the success of faculty research projects.
- We used to receive more support to publish. Such as literature reviews.
- When workload slows down ...I may visit and utilize online resources. Not sure what the resources are.
- The computer areas need to be cleaned
- Sims Library is a major asset to Southeastern and the surround community.
- Great staff
- Great Resource
- The library employees are always such a pleasure to work with. They seem very passionate about working there and are so nice.
- N/A - years ago when I did utilize the library when taking classes, I always found the staff to be very helpful.
- My interactions with the librarians and our departmental liaison, Dayne Sherman, are always positive and helpful.
- More in-person options and should be open more often on weekends
- I wish that the library had more current fiction and non-fiction reading material. I especially wish that they had more recreational reading in the digital format.
- Awesome
- Study rooms for students or if available somewhere else this needs to be advertised
- I utilize the online services often, and sometimes initiate the chat feature. I am extremely satisfied with the library services.
- Its antiquated.
- Thank you for always reaching out to ask if our program has any requests.
- Thank you so much for ILL!
- It is a fabulous resource. John Kelly, in particular, is a font of wisdom and information.
- The staff and services are wonderful. The facility could use some upgrades.
- They do a good job with the resources they have.
- Good job with limited budget
- The library staff has always been helpful in my research.
- Great staff.
- My experiences with the acquisitions team of the library has been outstanding!
- Love the iHub. My students use it all the time.
- Excellent staff!
- I wish that we advertised more of the resources that the Library has to offer to everyone, including faculty and staff in addition to students.

- Very knowledgeable and helpful staff and faculty. Turn around time for Interlibrary Loan is often less than 24 hours.
- I would like to utilize it more often but time is a barrier.
- Limits to journal access so that last 6 months is unavailable is limiting.
- I have visited the library more due to access to the IHUB and meeting space availability.
- I would like to see more development of OERs.
- I like that our library is available to faculty, students, and community members. It's a nice place to hang out to study, do research, or meet up with groups. The library staff is top notch!
- I have always been pleased with the help I have received from the staff at Sims Library.
- I am an employee (17 Years) in Sims Library. The building is what I consider an unhealthy working environment. Our indoor air quality causes many of us to consistently battle upper respiratory infections. Most recently, we had a construction crew come in to repair a buckle in the floor tile. They cut concrete/tile which left the hazardous dust all over everything in the first floor area. The area was not properly ventilated or cleaned up. This concrete/tile dust is still located to this day under the computer monitors and CPU's. The furniture in the library is not only outdated but the cloth backs on the chairs are also a health hazard. They are filthy due to years upon years on constant use without ever being cleaned. You can come in here right now and take a look at the air conditioning/heating intake vents and see layers upon layers of dust accumulated on them. This is what we breathe on a daily basis while we work.
- This is a wonderful resource to have as a faculty/staff member.
- A healthy, well-supported, and well-funded library is essential to any institution of higher learning.
- I would like to maybe see a newsletter or information regarding new releases of books?
- Very helpful staff. Procures the most up to date texts and resources with funds allocated to my department.
- Library managed VERY well. I appreciate the services they provide.
- Needs wider publicity on Book Fair
- Appreciate the help and their constant searching for books in alternative formats!
- With the new iHub, I see this as an opportunity to bring more events/meetings to the Library.
- The decor and furniture in the building is thoroughly unappealing.
- I love the direction it is going in. I would highly recommend thinking about how we can utilize space there. All those books are not needed and most can be found virtually. If it hasn't been checked out in the past 10 years, then it can be sold off and the space can be converted to classrooms or even meeting rooms for departments, clubs, and orgs.
- Friendly staff, I enjoy the yearly book sale
- I wish the computer monitors were bigger or there was two of them, it is hard to complete my work on a small screen like that. Also, please post the online resource instructions and what all that includes.
- Sometimes the elevators are a bit scary, but the facility overall is enjoyable.

- I love Sim Library. I do wish they had a quick way to look up call numbers without logging in to my Google account, which takes a long time on the library computers.
- Need less micro-managing from Department Heads and Deans. Academic freedom is not respected.
- Great when I do use it.
- I feel like iHub opened and then we never heard anything else about it. Opportunities for use, what it's being used for, how and when we as staff can use it, etc.
- The library is an essential resource for students and faculty. Unfortunately it is not treated as such when it comes to the financial support of the university. The library desperately needs upgrades to continue to serve as one of the biggest social and academic hubs on campus.
- When I have gone there they are accommodating and quick to help me find what I need
- Please allow Sims Library to invest in digital subscriptions--in our field it would be so helpful, but we are limited. This would make a BIG difference enriching our classes.
- I do not have any other thoughts or comments to share about the Sims Library at this time.
- It needs to be updated. Love hanging out there to study, but prefer places like Tinsley or Envoc lab because it seems cleaner and is more inviting
- The library should be getting a lot more support and attention from the university. It is the hub for the entire campus, based on location, services and environment. The fact that the building does not have the infrastructure to meet the needs of the campus and community is so appalling!
- Dayne Sherman has been very helpful in providing informative tours of the library for groups of ESL students (anytime I request a tour for the students in our non-credit program). The only online library resource our students regularly use is Mango Languages, which has been helpful for many of our Spanish and Portuguese-speaking students.
- Great staff. Easy to navigate. Online resources are solid.
- The best people on campus, they need way more appreciation.
- Keep up the good work, especially with limited resources.
- Lots of eBooks were taken offline this year, which has been a problem for courses that were using them.
- Inter-library loan is a miracle. Love the streaming resources.
- We need to have more subscriptions to Social Work journals. With the MSW program starting in the summer or Fall, of 2025, we will need additional research-related journals for the Master's students.
- Absolutely indispensable; the librarians are excellent, although the budget is really quite shamefully low.
- I recently visited the Library after about 2 years and I was pleasantly surprised at all the wonderful changes and upgrades that transformed the library since I last attended the university.

- I do not live near campus, which is why I do not visit regularly. However, I frequently use the online library resources.
- I did use this facility a lot as a student and enjoyed the environment!
- They are awesome!
- We have a great campus library and some of the most amazing librarians I have ever met. They are an amazing resource that deserves more attention and more praise than they receive.
- I have told students to use the library for projects that they are working on in class, and to make sure to go to the reference desk. I consistently get negative feedback that the people that they speak with do not know how to help them or provide resources needed for the project they are working on.
- I think they have been doing a great job keeping up the services that are offered at the library and in the online portal.
- Sims Library desperately needs an update to its capacity and facilities. It is embarrassing that our library is so old and our systems so outdated. No fault of this is due to our librarians, who I know are severely underpaid. More funding is needed to upgrade our library!
- I enjoy the library very much.
- I love the iHub!
- We need access to more journals for us to conduct research better.
- I have visited the library and I'm interested in using it, I just have not had the time to look into how to use it as a SLU employee, yet.