



2019 Large Federal Library or Information Center of the Year

D'Azzo Research Library
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio



Selection Criteria Statement (500 words or Less): (covering achievements completed during Fiscal Year 2019; cite specific examples and any supporting quantifiable data.)

1.Mission Support: the extent to which the federal library or information center assisted in fulfilling its organization’s mission during Fiscal Year 2019. (Include brief statements of both the agency and the library/information center missions, number and needs of library users, and an overview of how the library/information center has fulfilled mission-centered efforts.)

The Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) provides advanced education to the Air Force and other military and government organizations. The mission of AFIT's Graduate School of Engineering and Management (GSEM) is to produce outstanding technical leaders in the DoD by providing superior graduate education built in defense-focused research. The D'Azzo Research Library's (DRL) has a clearly defined mission statement: to support the educational, teaching, research, and administrative needs of the faculty, students, and staff of AFIT.

DRL has made a large impact on AFIT Grad School through access to appropriate resources in all formats, supporting current research and academic priorities; collaboration across the library, and expanded institutional repository – AFIT Scholar. The collections support the curriculum through DRL's own holdings and the library utilizes collaborations with the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) and other libraries to expand available resources and enhance access to research. The library made 598 solely owned materials available to other libraries through interlibrary loan (ILL) channels. To expand our student learning experience, DRL offers a wealth of resources to foster student success; instruction, preparing guides or exhibitions highlighting collections and services for students. Evidence of library's staff of 13 can be seen in its service to AFIT's FTE of 1,000 as staff responded to 5,612 reference requests, taught 36 Information Literacy Classes to 532 participants.

One of the key results of the undertaking revealed that students understood and appreciated ways that they could use library resources to research topics and find credible sources. Recent refurbishments have increased foot traffic by 8 percent as more users discovered the library's benefits and comfortable surroundings. Fresh renovations included a new bathroom, lactating room (for new mothers); enhanced greatly the educational prospects of users by installing 49 networked computers, seven AFNet workstations for TDY and new arrivals from other bases; mounted a 55" Samsung plasma monitor in front of DLR that support education; 398,817 visits to the library website (a 12 percent increase). The Internet has created tremendous opportunities in terms of accessing knowledge. Making AFIT's Theses and Dissertations available to the global community has created significant benefits by directly assisting faculty and student researchers in depositing scholarly publications and research data in AFIT Scholar - AFIT's repository.

The library stimulates excellence in research and scholarship through its collections, partnerships and services and its physical and virtual environments. The library is a strategic asset to AFIT contributing to the exploration and sharing of knowledge and the development of lifelong inquiry skills for the betterment of the AFIT community.

FEDLINK Library/Information Center of the Year Award



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2.Creativity/Innovation: the extent the federal library/information center demonstrated creativity or innovation to meet the agency mission by developing and/or enhancing existing service(s) in Fiscal Year 2019. (Please define the program challenge, describe the resolution, and explain the impact.)

Through a joint effort between the staffs of AFIT and AFRL, students and faculty now have access to hundreds more journal titles, conference proceedings and e-books. A Joint Purchase Task Force to review subscriptions was formed. The focus of the task force was to build a bridge between AFIT and AFRL to increase buying power by combining orders for library services, materials and equipment in order to achieve better pricing and realizing savings than what the AFIT and AFRL libraries were achieving separately. In 2019, the group of librarians evaluated the subscriptions from each library looking for opportunities for collaborative purchases that would eliminate duplication of service, but at the same time enhance access to on-line resources. Working with the task force members and base contracting, the libraries were able to secure collaborative purchases for more than 23 databases and journal collections at a cost savings of more than \$382,000.

A large portion of the library's budget is allocated toward licensing content from digital databases. These licenses provide users with the ability to search these databases within the library walls only. Remotely, they are unable to access the same information. To provide access to these databases to users when and where they need it, DRL upgraded EZproxy remote access control program used to provide AFIT students, staff and faculty with better off campus access to licensed databases for classroom learning and research. By acquiring more resources through AFIT/AFRL collaboration and also providing remote access to these e-resources, the library served more than 1,000 AFIT students, faculty and staff. Usage, including article downloads, was up from 235,603 last year to 315,258; a 33 percent increase for FY19.

To provide AFIT community with a space to store the information produced, DRL launched its Institutional Repository - AFIT Scholar. It serves as a single, central, searchable database for AFIT's Intellectual Output and it makes these materials freely and easily accessible to others. So far, AFIT Scholar has reached a worldwide audience with 36,850 theses and dissertations downloads in 166 countries and by 2,486 institutions in 2019. Our users connect more easily with research resources through AFIT Scholar.

In fulfilling the DRL's responsibility to support the teaching functions of AFIT and to actively participate in that function, the library staff has developed an organized library instruction program. During the 2019 academic year, librarians led 36 research workshops for 532 graduate students relative to classroom needs. The students were provided with a working model for conducting academic research and the model can then be carried forward by the student into his or her career inside and outside of the Air Force.

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3.Demonstrated Outcomes: the extent to which the federal library or information center served the needs of its defined user group(s) in Fiscal Year 2019. (Include impact statements and/or quantifiable data such as statistics, testimonials, cost savings to the institution, program changes, projects completed, etc.).

Our collections and services provide the support necessary for our students in all programs. it is the Library's responsibility to assure that the corresponding materials and services required by the six academic departments can be met effectively by AFIT. Through a collaborative initiative between the Air Force Institute of Technology Academic Library and the Air Force Research Laboratory's Technical Library, AFIT students and faculty now have increased access to quality information. The AFIT/AFRL collaboration saved more than \$382,000 on collections and about 95% of which is in digital format. This is an asset to AFIT, bringing faculty and students journals in numbers that would have been impossible if AFIT went alone. Serving approximately 800 students and 200 faculty and staff, the 23 additional databases increased the research and knowledge creation potential for teaching and learning. The faculty and other professionals demonstrate excellence in teaching and research, as well as professional growth. In addition, the increased access to quality information represents significant savings for students, who typically shell out several hundred dollars each quarter on textbooks.

The Library's First Floor provides versatile spaces that support a wide range of users' learning and research activities. To meet the changing learning, research and teaching needs of AFIT, First Floor Space was transformed into a thriving and open-ended learning hub that brings together information, engagement and technology. The creative use of space translated into offering users configurable areas with movable white boards, seating and ample power outlets. Fresh renovations include a new bathroom, lactating room (for new mothers), casual furnishings and non-permanent white board partitions. The significant upgrades of the First Floor Space allow students to be able to set up a space to work and study alone, or together as they pleased. As a result of the refurbishments that resemble the living room, decorum was improved and this floor offers a physical and sensory experience that inspires learning and engagement. Foot traffic increased by eight percent as more users discover the library's inviting, friendly atmosphere and comfortable surroundings. This shows that faculty and students increasingly view the library as the second best place for learning on campus outside of the classroom.

This year, the library provided an orientation session to 20 participants in Leadership Wright-Patt, a leadership development program. They were impressed with our collaborative spaces and available resources. By participating in the orientation session, the library promoted outreach and community building as well as increased its value to several directorates across Wright-Patterson AFB.

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