

Mission Statement

The mission of the New Mexico State University (NMSU) Library Instruction Program is to foster the development of NMSU students, faculty, and staff as information literate people who determine when information is needed; access information in all formats; evaluate information and its sources; and use information effectively and ethically.

Fundamental Assumptions

- ▶ Library instruction can be both formal (occurring in classrooms, via the Web, etc.) and informal (occurring at the reference desk and other service points). Only formal instruction falls within the scope of the Library Instruction Program.
- ▶ Students need more than factual/content knowledge to be successful professionally and personally. People encounter excessive amounts of information in everyday life in the "Information Age."
- ▶ NMSU is a minority-majority institution; the numbers of non-traditional and distance education students are increasing.
- ▶ NMSU faculty members share the Library Instruction Program's commitment to producing life-long learners and critical thinkers.
- ▶ Course- and curriculum-integrated LI offers the best opportunity to develop higher-level and discipline-specific information literacy skills.
- ▶ The Library is a recognized leader on campus, and NMSU plays a similar role in southern New Mexico.
- ▶ The Instruction Program cannot justify its existence by the number of sessions or students taught. Specific goals and objectives for performance outcomes must be developed and assessed in accordance with NMSU policies on academic freedom.
- ▶ Many librarians and library staff come to NMSU without training or experience in teaching and consequently find LI uncomfortable.
- ▶ Demand for LI is increasing: the number of LI sessions increased from 219 to 341 between 1999-00 and 2000-01, and 2001-02 seems likely to exceed earlier numbers.
- ▶ Library personnel within and outside the reference unit will continue to be key to the provision of library instruction at NMSU.

Core Values

- ▶ We recognize library instruction – both formal and informal – as central to the mission of today's libraries.
- ▶ We are committed to library instruction that fosters life-long critical thinking skills.
- ▶ We are committed to providing multiple modes of library instruction to meet the needs of diverse student learning styles and life situations.
- ▶ We encourage course faculty to collaborate in the design, delivery, and assessment of library instruction.
- ▶ We value course-integrated and curriculum-integrated instruction as the ideal for the NMSU library instruction program.
- ▶ We work in concert with other campus and community groups in promoting information literacy skills.
- ▶ We rely on specified goals and objectives to evaluate and assess the outcomes of library instruction in accordance with NMSU policies on academic freedom.
- ▶ We recognize that library personnel providing instruction require continuous training and support.
- ▶ We seek to broaden the pool of library instructors.
- ▶ We value the contributions of personnel outside the reference unit to library instruction.
- ▶ We seek to have library instruction more highly valued at New Mexico State University.
- ▶ We are dedicated to developing a library-based team under the leadership of the Instruction Coordinator to address instruction issues on a continuing basis.