Library Comparison Data

August, 2013
Overlap schools
(Champlain College, November, 2012)

Castleton State College
Drexel University
Emerson College
Ithaca College
Keene State College
Northeastern University
Plymouth State University
Quinnipiac University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rochester Institute of Technology

Roger Williams University
St. Michael's College
Southern New Hampshire University
UMass -Amherst
University of New Hampshire
University of Rhode Island
University of Vermont
Wentworth Institute of Technology
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Quartile charts

In comparing Champlain with a group of peer institutions, it is helpful to see a visual indication of where Champlain falls in the group. Rather than graphing individual data points for all schools, quartile charts show whether Champlain falls in the highest quarter, the lowest quarter, or the middle 50% of our peer group. They provide a quick, visible interpretation of where we are in regard to our peers.
How to read the charts

This illustration describes the composition of the quartile charts used in this report. Champlain is represented by the blue bar. A thin vertical line represents the middle 50% of the peer group. The top 25% of the group is above the thin line; the lowest 25% of the group is below the line. A dot represents the median of the group--half the schools have values higher than this point, the other half have values lower than this point.
Total Library Expenditures

Champlain’s total library expenditures are among the lowest...not surprisingly since the comparison group includes several larger schools—up to 25,000 students!

Why are these charts based on 2010 data? These are the most recent data available. NCES administers the survey biennially and generally releases data a year or more after the data submission deadline.
Library Expenditures per Student FTE

Even taking enrollment into account, Champlain’s library spending per student is in the lowest 25% of the comparison group, but just barely – it approaches the median.

What’s an FTE? Full time equivalent – an enrollment calculation that takes into account both fulltime and parttime students.

What’s a Median? The midpoint of the group: half the schools are above the median, half are below.
In spite of smaller expenditures, Champlain provides generous library staffing for the size of our student body, well into the middle of the group and very close to the median.

What is total library staff? Total library staff includes librarians, support staff, and student staff.

Why 1,000 FTE? Because students always outnumber staff by a large ratio, it’s easier to see the differences using a measure that’s calculated so the result is not a tiny fraction.
Librarians and Other Professional Staff Per 1,000 Student FTE

Champlain is especially well-staffed with librarians for the size of our student body, well above the median.
Hours Open in a Typical Week

And we keep Miller Information Commons open many hours per week – above the median for our comparison group.

Thank you, Circulation staff!
Gate Count per Student FTE in a typical week

Not surprisingly, students like to use Miller Information Commons! Our gate count is well above the median for our comparison group, on a per student basis.
Our number of circulation transactions per student is low, low low. But that isn’t really surprising… considering that our library was built to support online resources rather than circulating items!
Instructional Sessions per 1,000 Student FTE

On the other hand, the number of instructional sessions we provide per student is far above the median, in the top 25% of our comparison group.

Thank you, Teaching Librarians!
Instructional Sessions per $100,000 of library budget

That’s a lot of instruction for a library with our size of budget. We far exceed our comparison group in terms of the amount of instruction we provide per $100,000 of total expenditures. We’re putting our money where our mouth is when it comes to information literacy!
Is that how we should be spending our money?

Budgeting is always debatable. But in 2011, Champlain students identified Technology and Information Literacy as the most important of seven College-wide competencies. And when asked to rate satisfaction with the College’s contribution to their development of these competencies, the technology and information literacy competency again ranked at the top.
And it certainly is gaining respect!

“Our work is—and will remain—challenging, and this honor is a testament to what a small group of people can accomplish through innovation and dedication as we aspire to embody Champlain College’s motto, Audeamus...”
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