Adlai College Library, Report for the Administration
Physical and Digital Resource Evaluation

Goal of Evaluation

A team of librarians gathered data from the ACRL Benchmark Tool as well as a series of individual interviews and focus groups to evaluate the physical and digital collection of the Adlai College Library. The goal is to analyze how these collections compare to peer colleges and how well they are serving the needs of our students.

Stakeholders

- Students
- Collection Development Librarian(s)
- Library Administration and Staff
- College Board of Directors

Important Findings

- Majority of students interviewed (97%) reported high levels of satisfaction with the library
- Digital media and books collection are in line with peer colleges (both over 95% of median peer collections)
- Physical books collection is significantly smaller than peer colleges (around 70% of median peer collection)
- Material Expenditures per FTE Student are significantly smaller than peer colleges
- Historical usage rates were lower than peer colleges, but have since surpassed them in 2024, primarily led by surge in digital material usage
- Large minority of students interviewed (38%) worked with librarians in positive interactions

Successes

Popular Digital Resources
Students appreciate the digital collection available to them both on campus and remotely, reinforced by the digital material usage rates trending upwards since 2019 and the increased investment in the collection since 2018, driven by the pandemic.

- 2019 Digital Material Usage / Collection Total: 35,362 / 8,500 (eBooks)
- 2024 Digital Material Usage / Collection Total: 120,370 / 355,821 (eBooks)

"Many ebooks contain updated information and research that may not be available in print, making them a valuable resource for my research papers." – Junior A, Adlai College Interview

Positive Librarian Interactions
While some students only interact with the library through the aforementioned digital resources, 38% of participants in the research mentioned working with librarians. They listed multiple positive outcomes from these interactions, demonstrating the librarians' value to students.

"The library also has librarians and other staff members who are trained to help me find the information I need, which is especially helpful when I am working on a complex or specialized topic." – Junior B, Adlai College Interview

Opportunities

Physical Books Collection
Though it was a minority opinion, some students mentioned gaps in the physical books collection as an area where the library could improve. Data from the ACRL Benchmark Tool confirms that Adlai College's physical collection is smaller than the median of our peer group.

Books Physical (Title Count)
- Adlai College: 125,174
- Peer Group Median: 177,685

"I have struggled to find books or articles, even though I know these materials exist and are available elsewhere." – Senior B, Adlai College Interview

Material Expenditures Per FTE Student
Adlai College spends significantly less per FTE Student than the peer group.

- Adlai College Expenditure Per FTE: $266.10
- Peer Group Expenditure Per FTE: $287.50

Next Steps

- Review physical books collection for underserved areas, comparing holdings to WorldShare or performing an availability study
- Increase expenditure per FTE Student to align more closely with peer group, though usage indicates we may not need to match expenditures exactly to reach similar usage rates
- Promote benefits of working with librarians, as mentioned in multiple interviews