

**Final report to Associated Colleges of the South  
Information Fluency Project grant 2002-2003  
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## **Summary**

A \$3,500 ACS Information Fluency grant was applied toward two linked programs: a summer Faculty Academy; and a series of faculty presentations from October 2002 through May 2003. The total cost of these programs to date is \$4,856, with approximately \$1,000 in expenses remaining for the balance of the year. The costs in excess of the \$3,500 ACS grant are covered by an instructional technology grant from the Verizon Foundation.

The programs supported by the ACS Information Fluency grant had a tremendous impact on faculty members at Washington and Lee University, helping to build research and software skills and spurring valuable discussion on information fluency and other topics. Total enrollment in all programs to date is nearly 300. An April 2003 forum on an information fluency program at W&L drew 40 attendees, including the president of the university, and the presenters at that forum have published an article in a national publication and refined an information fluency Web resource that is available to all ACS institutions.

Here are details on the funded programs:

## **I. Faculty Academy**

A two-week Faculty Academy in August 2002 incorporated hands-on workshops, demonstrations, and "open lab" time for instructional technology projects. The sessions co-taught by librarians, technologists and faculty members focused on an element often missing in information fluency-related initiatives: equipping faculty with skills and knowledge needed to find, organize and present information with technology tools. Faculty members will have considerable influence on students' exposure to information fluency concepts; in their use of information and technology for teaching and learning, they are exemplars for their students. In addition, faculty who are information fluent are more likely to incorporate learning activities that demand information fluency from students.

Workshop topics included:

- Effective research with on-line library databases
- Copyright considerations in producing course materials, and creating electronic reserve materials for courses
- Tools for Teaching at W&L
- Creating course evaluations with Flashlight Online

Demonstrations by faculty members included:

- Irish Literary Studies: A Web Portal -- included a discussion of instructional strategies used in assigning students to find and assess images for use in literature course work.

- Using GIS Technology in the Political Science Classroom: Redistricting as a Test Case – included discussion of how students use GIS to acquire spatial data analysis skills in a political science course.

ACS funds sponsored these sessions, and also helped to pay for lunches for session presenters and participants.

A complete schedule for Faculty Academy may be viewed at [http://facultyacademy.wlu.edu/dec\\_02.html](http://facultyacademy.wlu.edu/dec_02.html)

### At a glance

Workshops .....	18
Faculty teaching-and-technology demonstrations .....	4
Open lab sessions for faculty projects.....	3
Faculty participants, all sessions .....	39
Total enrollment .....	106
Total cost.....	\$2,285

### Workshop evaluations (response rate: 59 percent)

Statement on evaluation	% agreeing with statement
Workshop met my needs in this subject area	91.5 %
I had opportunity to ask questions	100 %
I received adequate assistance from instructor	97.9 %
Instructor was well-prepared for workshop	97.9 %

### Selected comments from the anonymous workshop evaluations:

- It is not an exaggeration to say that the Faculty Academy has changed the way that I work and teach, and the term hasn't even begun yet!
- FANTASTIC. Really helpful- appreciated everybody's work and energy and time. Wish there had been more time to learn more stuff.
- I came into the workshop with a random assortment of questions, and they were all answered over the course of the session. Such a broad and basic array of skills was presented -- I'll use them daily in my teaching, research, and general negotiation of the university.

## II. Instructional technology and information fluency forums

A series of forums were held, each consisting of a brief presentation by faculty members, followed by a question-and-answer period. Background narratives written by the faculty members are posted on the Web, along with videos of the presentations. Topics were:

- Information Fluency: a Team Approach
- The ALSOS Library: A Digital Collection for Education and Research
- The Digital Universe, from Reid Hall

- Presenting and Managing Digital Image Collections
- Optimal Use of Blackboard Course Management Software for Teaching
- (Coming in May 2003): Geology and Geographic Information Systems

The forum on the Information Fluency program was attended by 40 faculty members, technologists, librarians and administrators, including W&L President Thomas Burish and Dean Larry Peppers of the Williams School of Commerce, Economics and Politics. Peppers called it "the best demonstration of an integrated teaching model that I have attended at W&L. You brought together all of the pieces -- students, faculty, library support and computing support -- in describing your innovative approach to teaching statistics." The program involved a team approach to instruction, including a faculty member, technologist and librarian who created Web resources on information fluency and trained students to help other students with information fluency as it applied to a particular course. A more complete description of the program is at <http://itl.wlu.edu/forum/archive/info.htm>

After the forum, several faculty members requested that the information fluency program be extended to their courses. As a result of such requests and the initial success of the program, the program leaders are seeking funding for expansion.

Some of the Web resources created for the information fluency program are at: <http://info.wlu.edu>

An article by Jeff Overholtzer and John Tombarge on the program was published in the March 2003 issue Educause Quarterly can be viewed at: <http://www.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/eqm0319.pdf>

### Forums at a glance

Attendance for six forums .....	~ 175
Total cost.....	\$2, 571