

Question:

What evidence is there of community use of the Instructional Materials Center since it shifted to Fund 80?

Madison School and Community Education Library (MSCEL)

Room 116
Doyle Admin Building
545 West Dayton St.
Madison, WI

Goal: The primary goal of the MSCEL is to provide library services focusing on educational policy, staff development, and the selection of instructional materials to Madison Metropolitan School District staff and the local (Madison) community with an interest in K-12 education.

The MSCEL is composed of two separate collections. The Educational Reference Collection (ERC) focuses on educational reference, staff development and policy materials. The Instructional Materials Selection Collection (IMSC) focuses on instructional materials (e.g., textbooks) selection services and practices. The IMSC also serves as perhaps the largest instructional materials preview site in the state. The current (May 1, 2006) MSCEL collection contains 23,308 items.

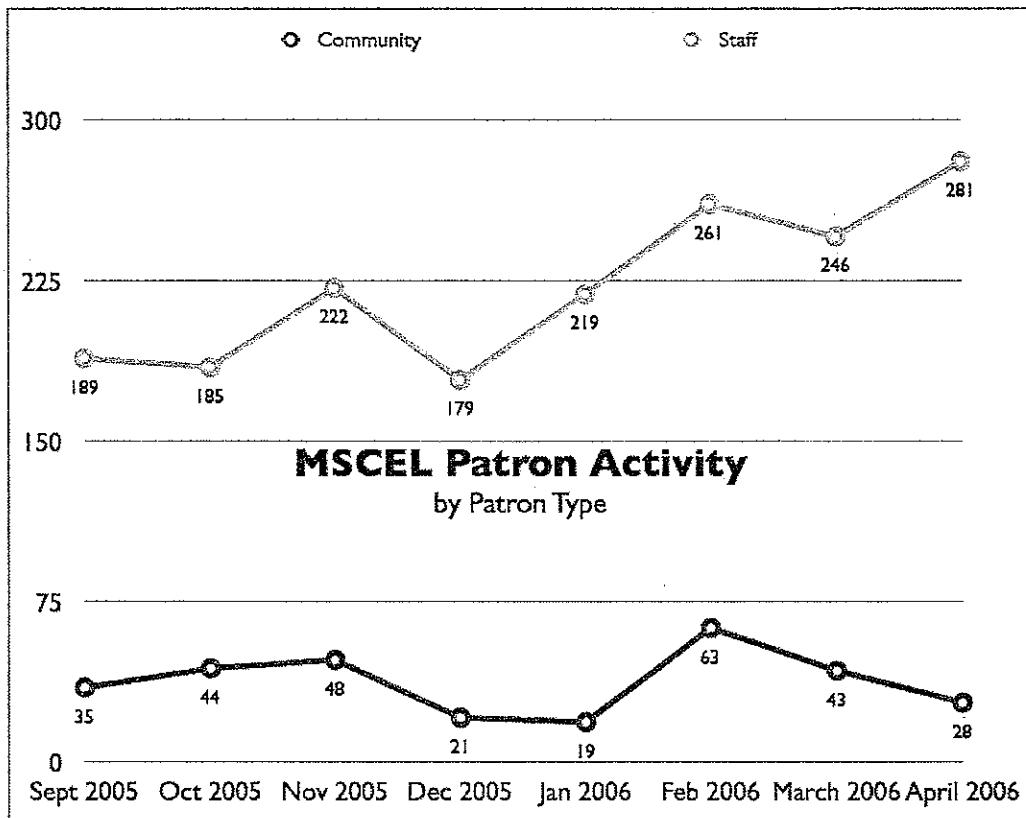
An open house on January 20, 2004 signaled the start of the Madison School and Community Education Library as a community service.

At that time, the ERC and IMSC collections were restructured to serve the community, including:

- private K-12 schools;
- neighboring public K-12 school systems;
- institutions of higher education (e.g., UW-Madison, Edgewood, MATC);
- public libraries, and
- the general public.

When the MSCEL opened for business as a community service, indexing to the collection was provided to users through use of the Follett CIRC+/CAT+ library automation software. Access to the collection using that tool was not possible for users outside the school district. The District's transition from a decentralized library automation program to a centralized Internet-based solution (Sagebrush Accent) beginning in February of 2005 has made it possible for all potential users anywhere to locate MSCEL and other Madison Metropolitan School District LMC materials by going to <http://accent.madison.k12.wi.us>

Use: Since February 1, 2005, 62 community members and 291 MMSD staff have checked 6794 materials out of the MSCEL (ave. monthly circulation of 453 items). At least an equal number of patrons have used the facility as a preview center without withdrawing materials. The graph below depicts MSCEL circulation from the start of the academic year (Sept. 1, 2005) by patron type.



So far, community members accounted for the largest percentage of overall MSCEL circulation during the month of August 2005, when 35 of the 90 items (39%) loaned were to community members.

We expect the percentage of community use to slowly increase as the community becomes more aware of our existence and as cooperative resource sharing arrangements with the University of Wisconsin and Madison Public Library are finalized.

May 8, 2006 marks the next scheduled meeting between representatives of the MSCEL (Carol Kaufman, ERC Librarian, Ron Goral, Mark Lea, Library Media Services Coordinator) and UW-Madison (Joan Carr, CIMC Director, Lee Konrad, Director of Memorial Library). Topics for discussion include enabling online database access sharing, user services for higher education students and the processes associated with providing access to UW resources for MMSD staff and students.