Business Learning Center

Vison

Building a better future through information access and empowering people to transform information into knowledge

Mission

The Business Learning Center equips students and faculty with the tools and resources they need to effectively access and use information to support research, learning, and future improvements in business, agribusiness, and applied economics.

Values

Service, scholarship, information literacy

Overview

Whether to support coursework, research, personal or professional development, information resources record what we know about the world and help us communicate what we learn. The proliferation of information in the Information Age creates the need for strategic acquisition of resources and information literacy skills to effectively navigate this wealth of information and to distill knowledge from it. Thus, the role of the Business Learning Center in this information-rich world is to:

1. Teach students¹ to effectively find high-quality information and to think critically about it.
2. Offer research assistance² to help students and faculty effectively leverage the resources we have to support research, learning, and future improvements in business, agribusiness, and applied economics.
3. Strategically acquire resources³ to support current information needs and future growth.
4. Provide space and resources⁴ that enable students to study individually and in groups in a technology-rich environment.
5. Provide community access⁵ to library resources to help the area business community continue to build a better future, to be a destination of choice for businesses and employees, and to compete globally.

¹ Aligns with NDSU’s student-focused mission and value of Teaching and Learning, as well as its strategic focus on Learning and Student Success. Supports HLC Accreditation Standard 3D-5, “The institution provides to students guidance in the effective use of research and information resources,” and 3B-3 of engaging students in “collecting, analyzing, and communicating information” and “developing skills adaptable to changing environments.”
² Contributes to NDSU’s research mission and values of Scholarship, Teaching and Learning, as well as its strategic focus on Research and Discovery. Aligns with the AACSB Accreditation Standard 7 of providing “professional staff and/or services” to directly support the “the production and impact of intellectual contributions.”
³ Facilitates NDSU’s research mission; values of Scholarship, Teaching and Learning; and its strategic focuses on Learning and Student Success, particularly plans for program growth, and Research and Discovery. Contributes to HCL Accreditation Standard 3D-4 of providing resources “to support effective teaching and learning” and 5C-1, “The institution allocates its resources in alignment with its mission and priorities.” Additionally supports the College of Business’s strategic plan to provide research resources that “attract and support high quality faculty members in developing a research portfolio that engages and serves community partners” and AACSB Accreditation Standard 3 in regards to providing resources such as databases “to support high-quality faculty intellectual contributions and their impact.”
⁴ Aligns with NDSU’s student-focused mission, value of Teaching and Learning, and the strategic focuses on Learning and Student Success and Research and Discovery.
⁵ Supports NDSU’s land grant mission and value of accountability to the state, as well as its strategic focus on Outreach and Engagement.
Goals

Services

- Equip all business, agribusiness and applied economics students with information literacy skills (authority is constructed and contextual; information creation as a process; information has value; research as inquiry; scholarship as conversation; searching as strategic exploration)\(^6\)
- Scaffold information literacy into several required business courses so students learn certain information literacy skills in each and have an increasingly complex understanding and ability to use them
- Integrate instruction or tools such as research guides or tutorials into business and agribusiness and applied economics courses that use or could use library resources
- Increase student, faculty, and community interaction with library staff for research assistance
- Increase awareness of services to students, faculty, and the community and continue to come up with ways to do so

Collection

- Curate an online and print collection that meets student and faculty needs to support instruction, research, professional development, and future program growth
- Make students and faculty aware of the resources we have that they can use in their research and instruction and teach them how to use those resources effectively
- Evaluate current use and overlap of library resources in order to identify resources for cancellation
- Identify and evaluate resources for possible acquisition
- Increase student, faculty, and community awareness and use of the Business Learning Center collection

Staffing

- Provide friendly and helpful service that encourages people to use the Business Learning Center and to come to us for help
- Staff the circulation desk as much as possible while the Business Learning Center is open so someone is available to help when people come there for assistance
- Continue to stay on top of trends in scholarly communication, information literacy, libraries, and instruction in order to share and implement expertise as beneficial

Facilities

- Maintain an environment conducive to studying
- Increase use of group study rooms for tutoring and course projects
- Provide technology for checkout that supports groups, course projects, and homework
- Facilitate use of space for interdepartmental gatherings