Summary

The objective of the project was to develop an assessment model for the work of the Rohrbach Library based on standards for academic libraries as outlined by the Association of College and Research Libraries’ Standards for Libraries in Higher Education (June 2004). Along with creating the assessment model, the project sought to gather evidence that documented the contributions of Rohrbach Library to teaching, learning, and research at Kutztown University.

To accomplish this objective, the grant funded a visit from a team of evaluators from the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) who examined past assessment efforts of the Library and made recommendations for improvement. The most important recommendations from the ARL team were to: establish leadership and coordination for assessment; integrate assessment planning with strategic planning; analyze, report, and use assessment results; collect, organize, and make accessible library-related data; enhance staff assessment understanding and skills; and expand the use of qualitative assessment techniques.

In response to the team’s recommendations, the Dean of Library Services formed an assessment committee in January 2010 under the leadership of Linda Matthews, Ed.D., Associate Dean of Library Services. The committee is currently drafting a plan to be implemented for the 2010-2011 academic year. After reviewing the Rohrbach Library’s Strategic Plan, the top assessment priorities that were identified include: assessment of the Information Literacy skills of Kutztown University students; assessment of outreach efforts; and assessment of the library’s new Information Commons. The key research instrument used to gather and analyze data on Information Literacy will be a survey of Information Literacy skills that will be administered to incoming first-year students as well as students in capstone/seminar classes. The committee is still working to finalize assessment plans for outreach and the Information Commons. Focus groups have been used in the past to gather information about library services and will likely be used to gather and analyze data on these two assessment areas.