

HIRAM S. WALTERS RESOURCE CENTRE A CASE FOR SCHOLARSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP

AN AGENT OF CHANGE AT NORTHERN CARIBBEAN UNIVERSITY AND ITS ENVIRONS

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Outline

- Introduction
- Mission
- Christian Librarianship
- Libraries Impact
- NCU Library's Reach
- Student Worker and general population survey Findings
- Liaison Librarian Programme
- Community outreach
 - Adoption of High School
 - Setting up Community library



INTRODUCTION

The Hiram S. Walters Resource Centre is undoubtedly a transformational agent at Northern Caribbean University for all its stakeholders – faculty, staff, students and visitors.

- ❖ The purpose of this paper was to examine the impact of the Hiram S. Walters Resource Centre (NCU Library) on the Northern Caribbean University campus and its environs.
- ❖ The objective was to determine the extent to which the lives of faculty, staff, students and visitors had been transformed spiritually, intellectually, and socially by the resources and services offered by the library.

The mission of the Hiram S. Walters Resource Centre is to provide our clientele with current, relevant information, thereby supporting the larger mission of Northern Caribbean University, which is to stimulate academic excellence and spiritual development.

CHRISTIAN LIBRARIANSHIP

In as much as the Christian librarian understands that he or she cannot act in their role as routinely as the profession would dictate and expect, there remains the undeniable divide that Gregory Smith refers to as a professional dilemma. That dilemma is the tug-of-war that pulls the practitioner between the aloofness of professional neutrality and the knowledge that ones' Christian ethics demand that there be a sense of strong social responsibility towards all clients served by the library.

Christian Librarianship Core Values

Christian librarians should ...

- ☑ Acknowledge God, not professional standards as their authority
- ☑ Promote the love of God as mankind's highest occupation
- ☑ Affirm human freedom to choose (not) to love God - CENSORSHIP AND
- ☑ Offer resources that provide for total personal development
- ☑ Integrate scholarship and discipleship, and lead others to do the same
- ☑ Serve patrons, colleagues, and superiors with a motive of love
- ☑ Refrain from discrimination when serving patrons and dealing with personnel
- ☑ Emulate Christ love in their dealings with patrons, colleagues and superiors
- ☑ Give a positive witness to unbelievers

Smith, Gregory A. The Core Values of Christian Librarianship: A Round-table discussion, 1982.

LIBRARIES' IMPACT...

- ④ The library is a universe of knowledge and ideas
- ④ The library encourages reading – Reading expands the mind and stimulates thought, emotions and the emergence of new ideas
- ④ The library facilitates healthy discussion,
- ④ The library empowers persons and makes them more aware, builds self confidence and equip individuals to make life changing decisions
- ④ The library also facilitate the intellectual evolution of an individual from infancy to adulthood as it supports the learning process at each stage

NCU Library Reach

As the library pursues its mandate of scholarship and discipleship, its reach is felt both on and off the campus:

- Liaison Librarian
- Library Orientation
- Current Awareness efforts/tools
 - Emails
 - Displays
- University Committees Membership
- Publications
- Civil Involvement – National Youth Services (NYS)
- Association Membership
- Conference Presentations

Work/Study Programme

Embedded in NCU's mission is the work/study programme. Most persons who attend the university work to help offset their financial obligations. Every semester the library employs over sixty students to work in all the various departments. This particular programme is an excellent avenue for library staff to provide mentorship.

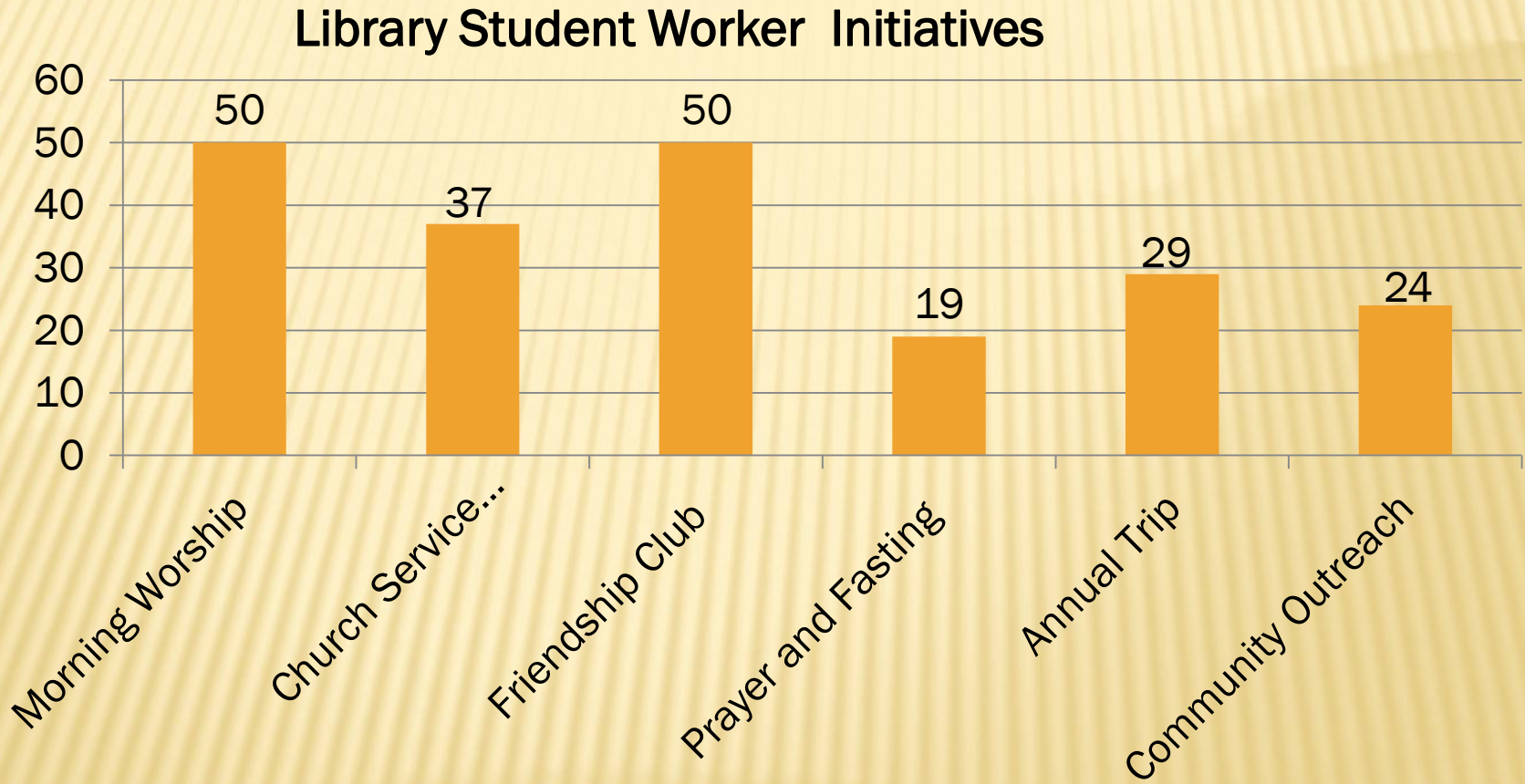
As part of their training, the staff conducts a workshop for them at the beginning of each semester. They listen to presentations on:

- Time management
- Dressing for success
- Money management
- Customer Service
- Interpersonal relationships
- Work ethics

Table 1.0 Showing length of time students worked at the Resource Centre (Library)

Time Period	Number of persons	Percentage
One Semester	12	19
Two Semester	16	25
Two Years	14	22
Over Two Years	19	30
No Response	2	3
Total:	63	100

Fig. 1 No of respondents who participated in the Various Initiatives



General Survey Findings

The survey was administered to faculty, staff and students to ascertain their awareness of the services and resources available at the Hiram S. Walters Resource Centre. Additionally the study sought to find out the impact the library had on its users. A total of 300 surveys were distributed to faculty staff and students, with only 213 respondents.

Table 2.0 Population Surveyed

Categories	No of Respondents	Percent
Administrator	4	2
Faculty	32	15
Staff	26	12
Undergrad	147	69
Graduate	1	.5
Continuing Ed.	1	.5
No Response	2	.9
Total	213	100

Fig. 2 shows general library use

Reasons for using Resource Centre

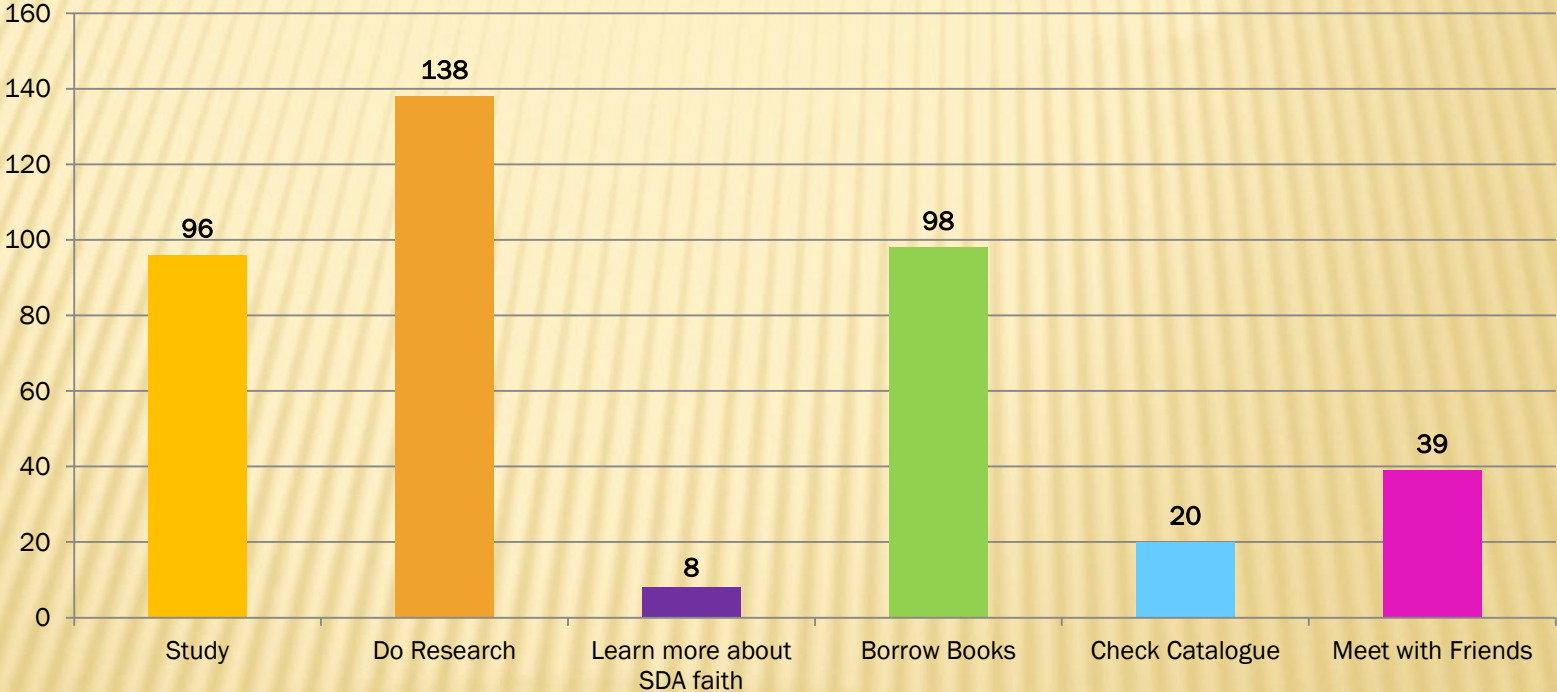


Table 3.0 Evidence of Integration of Faith and Learning

Category	No. of Respondents	Percentage
No Response	15	7
Strongly Agree	35	16.4
Agree	67	32
Disagree	40	19
Strongly Disagree	16	8
Undecided	40	19
Total	213	100

Fig 3. Users Perception of Library Staff

Relationship with Staff

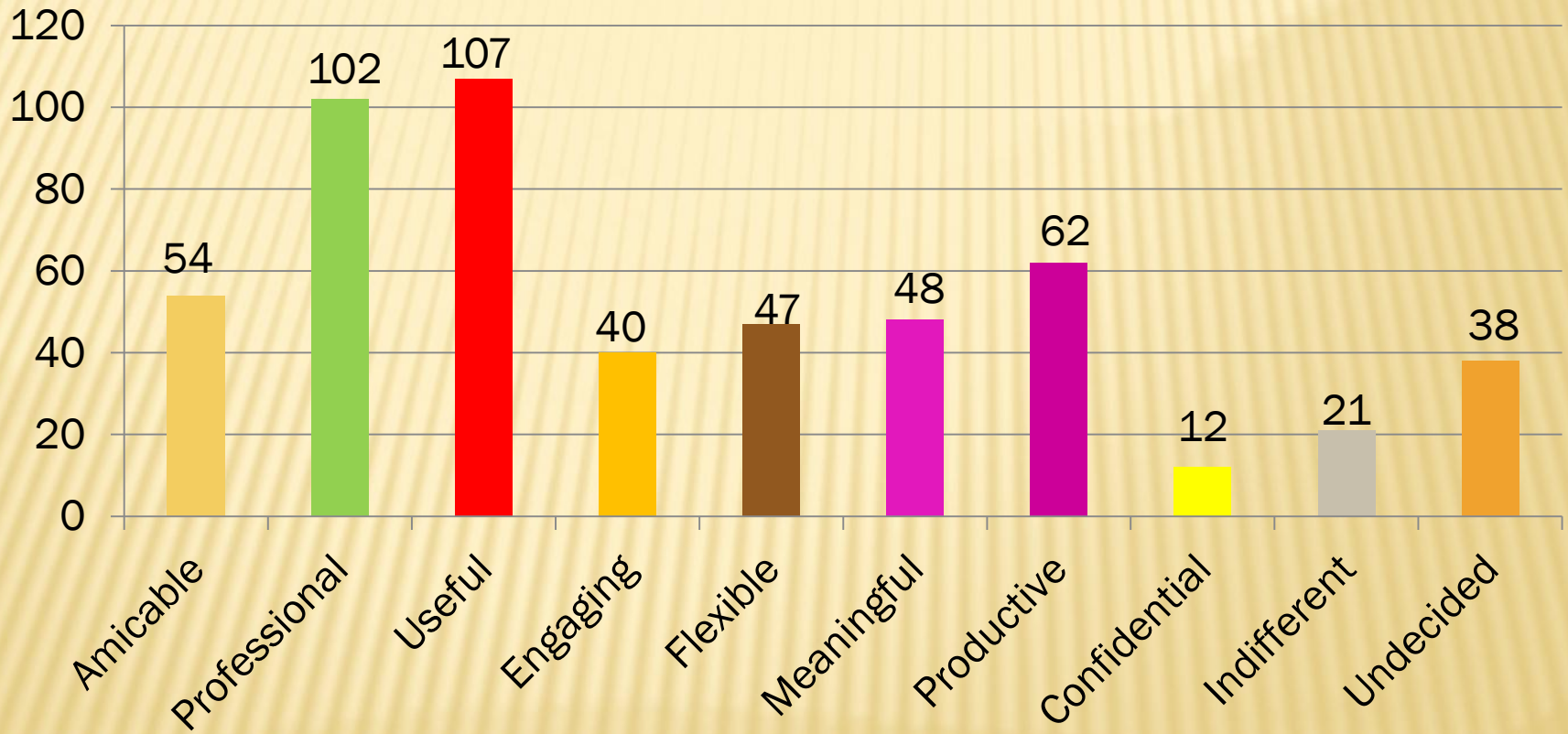


Table 4. Users Perception of library workers mannerism in exhibiting Christian values

Responses	Frequency	Percent
No Response	11	5.2
Strong Agree	19	8.9
Agree	79	37.1
Disagree	60	28.2
Strongly Disagree	23	10.2
Undecided	21	9.9
Total	213	100

Table 5. Respondents thinks library staff demonstrates that NCU C.A.R.E.S

Responses	Frequency	Percent
No Response	14	6.6
Strongly Agree	11	5.2
Agree	87	40.8
Disagree	49	23.0
Strongly Disagree	26	12.2
Undecided	26	12.2
Total	213	100

Community Outreach Programmes

There are several community projects that the library has undertaken over the years. These include:

- ❖ Adopting the Victor Dixon High School Library
- ❖ Setting up the Allen Shaw Reading Room
- ❖ Visiting the Infirmary for the aged and indigent
- ❖ Assisting two children with food supply
- ❖ Visiting Children home

Adoption of Victor Dixon High School

As part of the outreach thrust of the library and being the parent institution for the prep and high school; the Hiram S. Walters has adopted the library at the high school. This means that we have sent personnel to assist in the organization and maintenance of the library. We have also supplied them with shelves.

Library Staff



Community Outreach



Kim and Shaun

Community Project



Student Workers at Children home



Community Project -

**COMMUNITY
PROJECT**

**Reading Room in
adjoining community.**



COMMUNITY PROJECT



Library project





**COMMUNITY
PROJECT**



Having a great relationship with staff always impact the outcome of workers performance in a positive way.

This can be achieved through social interaction.



SOCIAL INTERACTION – STAFF RETREAT



STAFF OUTING

Ys falls in
Jamaica.





Opening the cover of a new book is like choosing the mysterious "door number three" on a game show. It's hard to guess exactly what is behind the curtain; sometimes it's worth the risk and sometimes it isn't, but you never know unless you open it. A library is full of such choices, with endless resources offering unknown rewards. Growing up in a small town, the library was for me a gateway to a wider world. It introduced me to new, exciting interests and helped me learn about myself and countless other subjects. As a future librarian I sincerely hope to encourage others to discover the possibilities behind a "door number three" in their libraries.

-Jamie, Denver

Comments?