Standard 6. Learning Resources (Overall Rating **** Stars)

Learning resource materials and associated services must be adequate for the requirements of the program and the courses offered within it and accessible when required for students in the program. Information about requirements must be made available by teaching staff in sufficient time for necessary provisions to be made for resources required, and staff and students must be involved in evaluations of what is provided. Specific requirements for reference material and on-line data sources and for computer terminals and assistance in using this equipment will vary according to the nature of the program and the approach to teaching.

1. **Explanatory note about processes for provision of learning resources for the program including** :

Learning Resources (LR) is considered to be the backbone for supporting teaching and learning processes. This report attempts to assess the quality of learning resources available for the faculty and students of the College of Science. The report will not simply focus on the provision of available book collections and services, but it will also focus the electronic learning services, as well as the internet provided by University and College. The College has access to a wide range of learning resources including MU Libraries, college portal, web based learning resources, and e-journals. College portal provides vast amounts of information in the form of, faculty web- pages, links to important web-sites, and announcements about a variety of events. In collaboration with Deanship of e-learning and Distance Education the latter is setting up the infrastructure for e-learning, building lines of communication between faculty and students, providing emails for each student, staff and faculty, as well as creating a message centre. In addition, the University has cooperated with other partners to provide sources of knowledge for its students such as; access to Saudi Digital Libraries (http://sdl.edu.sa) and the National Centre for e- learning.

The College provides computer labs based on intelligent board with software ActivInspire. ActivInspire is a new software from Promethean. It facilitates learning recourses and other teaching purposes. Furthermore, the College is completely covered with wireless internet access.

Description of the processes used to evaluate performance in relation to this standard are based on data. Data has been obtained through documents review and personal interviews with the Head of the CSI department. Also, by the review the annual report of Library Deanship Report, 1434/1435H. The team members also revised the course evaluation, measurement and measurements and evaluation unit, readiness of the College and student's surveys results. Review the sites of the MU Library, College of Science, Digital Library.

2. **Evidence and Performance Indicators**

Evidence about the quality of learning resource provision and performance indicators derived from this evidence can be obtained from user satisfaction surveys, success rates for students in accessing course reference material, documents describing processes for identifying and responding to course requirements, and details of times when facilities are available for use by students and teaching staff. Information and orientations should be available for new students when needed. The institution should be able to provide information about level of provision through books, periodicals and web-based resources in comparison with institutions offering similar programs.

3. **Key Performance Indicators (KPI)**
    1. The average rating by the students on response to the statement "The learning resources for the course were available" in course evaluation survey.

2. The average rating by the graduates on response to the statement "Learning resources were up to date and useful" in graduate evaluation survey.
3. The average rating by the students on response to the statement "The learning resources were appropriately available" in course evaluation survey.
4. The average rating by graduates on response to the statement "The library facilities were useful and available" in graduate evaluation surveys.
5. The average rating by staff on response to the statement "I found that the learning resources for my courses are available in the libraries" in staff assessment of the College Readiness for the first semester 1435H.

6.1 **Planning and Evaluation**

Learning resources on the Web and the e-learning unit are managed mainly by policies and procedures that give special attention to the particular requirements of academic departments and research units. The faculty uploads their courses on their homepage on the College Website. They also provide advice on materials required to support teaching and learning (Website of College of Science: http://www.mu.edu.sa/en/colleges/college-science-al-zulfi, as well as the program's handbook) . They refer to the materials required to support teaching and learning in the first class, every semester on their homepage.

A) The Strengths
1- The library saves many copies of up-to-date editions of the important references and periodicals needed by the departments. Besides, a powerful computer network is available.
2- Up-to-date international text books are devoted for program courses. Besides, at least two recommended references must be listed for each course. This is achieved each academic year.
3- An Education and Learning Resources Committee is concerned with learning resources requirements.

B) Priorities for Improvement

There must be evaluation processes that include gathering information about library and other learning resources used. Also, the analysis of this data must be introduced to teaching and learning requirements for different programs in the institution.

6.2. Organization

Realizing the fact that students need extended hours for reading and research, the college library have extended its daily opening periods which is currently from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm from Sunday to Thursday and close on Friday and Saturday. Library collections and materials are brought on a regular basis based on submitted requests from various academic departments which take into account the teaching and learning requirements. These are catalogued and referenced in the international coding systems.

A separate college digital library project is being finalized. It will provide access to books and manuscripts. There are clear guidelines governing the borrowing of materials as well as the fines for late returns. The maximum number of books a faculty member can borrow at a time is 20, whereas a student can borrow 15 books. All books are magnetized and bar-coded to ensure secure systems for borrowing. Library has several copies of the same books to ensure at least one copy is always on-hand for visitors, and materials in great demand are not borrowed out for long periods. The College library has clearly displayed its codes of conduct for the users, and students are satisfied at the facilities.

On the other hand, newly integrated automated library software has been acquired for on campus and off campus searches, and access has been provided to universally online databases. Moreover, MU web site and e-learning services are available 24/7 to students and college's members, providing up-to-the-minute access to University activities and course material (Annual report of libraries Deanship). Moreover, an

access to E-Journals are available for faculty on the Saudi Digital library (http://sdl.edu.sa/) which permits access to many of international journal periodicals and books.

A) The Strengths
1. There are clear guidelines governing the borrowing of materials.
2. Several copies of the same books to ensure at least one copy is always on-hand for visitors.
3. The College library has clearly displayed its codes of conduct for the users, and students are satisfied at the facilities given to them.
4. On the other hand, newly integrated automated library software has been acquired for on campus and off campus searches, and access is available 24/7 to students and faculty, providing up-to-the-minute access to University activities and course material (Annual report of libraries Deanship).

B) Priorities for improvement
1. *Agreements must be established for cooperation with other libraries and resource centres for interlibrary borrowing and sharing of resources and services.*
2. *The library opening hours must increase to be from 08:00am to 08:00 pm.*

6.3 Supports for Users

The new Information Literacy Program aims at teaching library users on how to make use of the wide range of different learning resources available. Qualified librarian is available to help users and answer their questions. Furthermore, electronic system is being developed to assist users to search and find library collections. There is a department for reference services. This department provides services to users, such as direct and indirect reference services and guidance through phone, e-mail, and fax. The department facilitates the use of the library through the guidance to the appropriate paper references and the way to use it. It also helps users to identify reference materials through research in automated system as well holding training courses for new students on how to use the library and the automated system in the library (Annual report of Libraries Deanship).

A) The Strengths
1. Well trained Liberians are available.
2. A powerful computer network is available.
3. All the departments are informed.

B) Weakness
1. Only one Training Program was provided.
2. A few numbers of qualified librarians.
3. The number of trained Liberians is not enough.

C) Priorities for improvement
Printed or electronic guides must be provided to help users finding materials for popular subject areas.

6.4. Resources and Facilities

Appropriate sources and reference material is available for the program. Also, facilities and equipment should be available, and library resources should be suitable to the needs of the program. A sufficient number of books, journals and other reference materials is available, including electronic sources, to meet the needs of the program.   Modern computer technologies are available and sufficient to meet the needs of the program in supporting the process of electronic access to sources and reference, materials, available books, journals, and other reference materials in both Arabic and English, as required by the program and related research.

A) The Strengths

1. Needed budget is consistently made for ownership, cataloguing, equipment, and for services and system development.
2. The availability of online access and borrowing facilities are used to reduce commitment of providing physical resources on site.
3. Up to date computer equipment and software are available to support electronic access to resources and reference material.

B) Weakness

1. photocopying facilities supported by efficient payment mechanisms are not available for users (students)
2. Appropriate facilities are not provided for laptop and personal computers.

C) Priorities for improvement

1. *Sufficient facilities should be provided for both individual and small group study and research.*
2. *The resources (facilities and materials) are evaluated with similar good institutions, to see if it is suitable for institution and the programs being offered.*

Evaluation of learning resources for students in the program. Refer to evidence about the standard and sub-standards within it, and *provide a report* including a list of strengths, recommendations for improvement, and priorities for action.

Summary

Learning resources at College of Science, and consequently at Computer Science and Information Department, have now acquired high standards in supporting learning and research. The College of Science site is regularly updated with information on activities and programs provided to students and faculty, and increasingly, the e-learning environment has become the norm at the College to access learning resources. This assessment relies on several factors as mentioned in the data-gathering section. Even though, the results of this assessment indicate that satisfactory levels of quality have been achieved, learning resources at College of Science are going through major development as many projects are continually being initiated.

Strengths

1. MU library has access to a wide range of learning resources.
2. Strong and full support from University administrations.
3. Adequate budget allocation for learning resources.
4. Establishing the Deanship of e-learning and Distance Education.
5. Establishment of the web-portal and extended usage of the portal as a learning resource for students.
6. Initiation of several developmental projects of computer applications within the library.
7. Updating of facilities including provision of a large number of computer sections within the library.

Areas requiring improvement

Utilization of the library's automation system to its full potential, especially its interaction with users (i.e. request for new purchase, holding a borrowed book).

Priorities for action

Enhance utilization of E-learning system independently for all students.