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50 Shades of Green: Promoting Campus Sustainability through Library Partnerships

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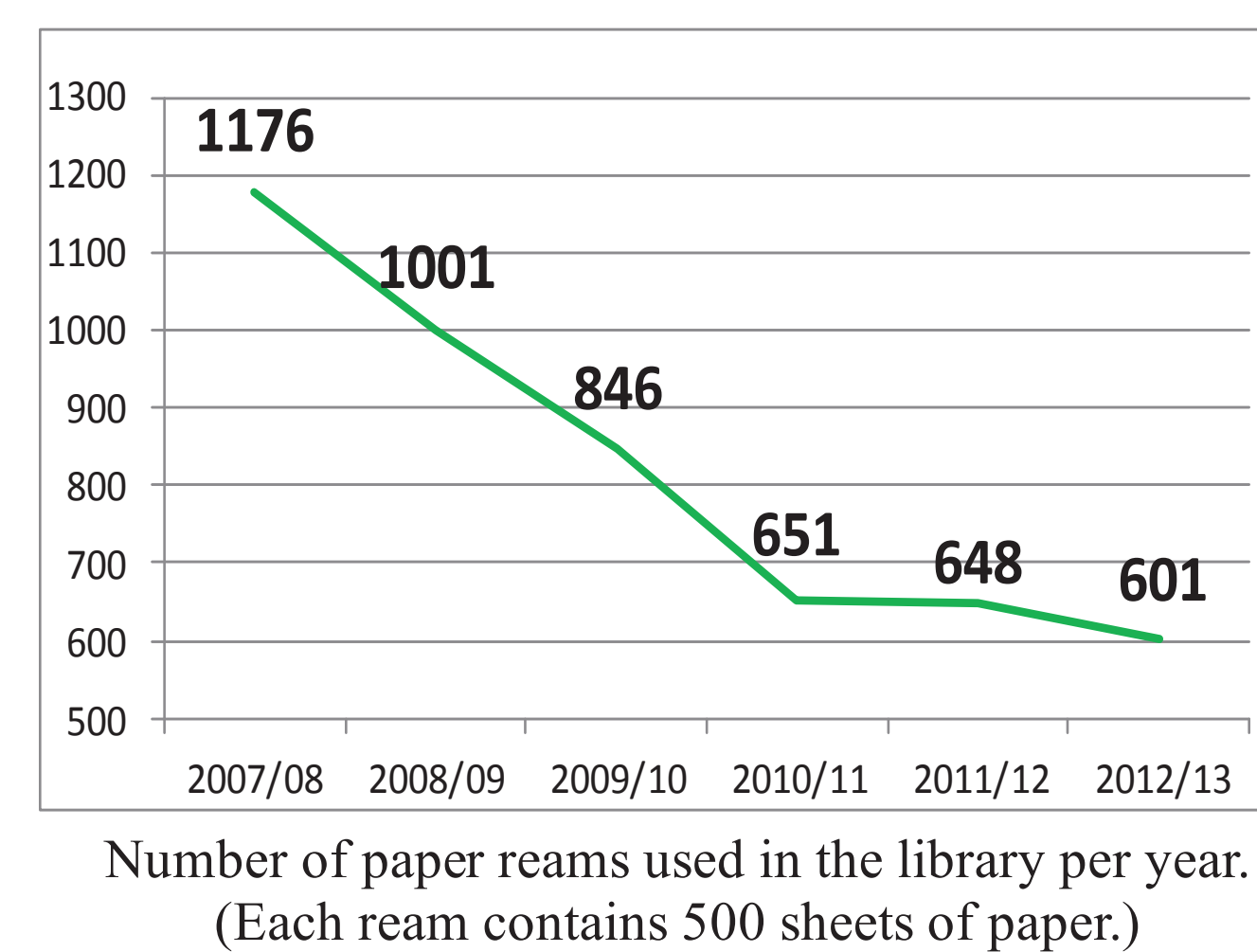
Meghann Toohey & Anne Marie Gruber

Introduction

The Charles C. Myers Library at University of Dubuque is a campus leader in sustainability. The library staff makes sustainable choices and are a key part of campus conversations. *Going green* fits directly with both the library's mission to support lifelong learning and the institutional mission to encourage stewardship of our natural resources.

Paper Reduction

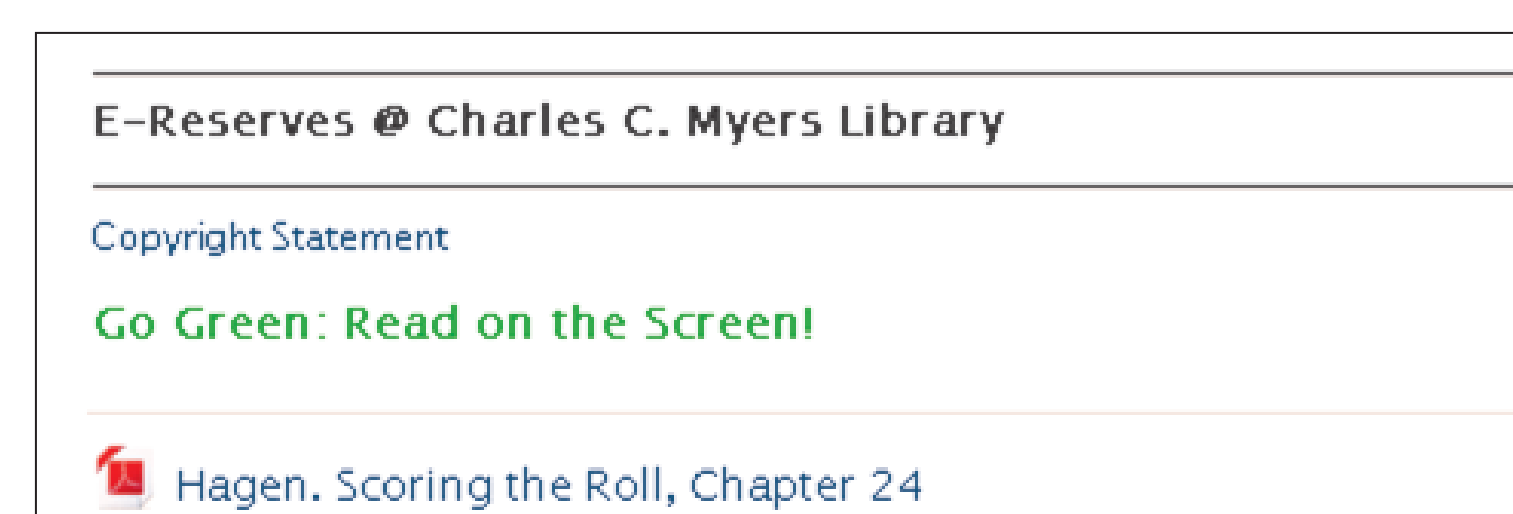
1. Instituted print-release system and have printers default to 2-sided



2. Signage and online messages give students ideas for reducing printing
3. Provide electronic-focused services:
 - Purchased 5 scanners for student use



- Promote the use of e-reserves for courses, including a label encouraging users to read on the screen

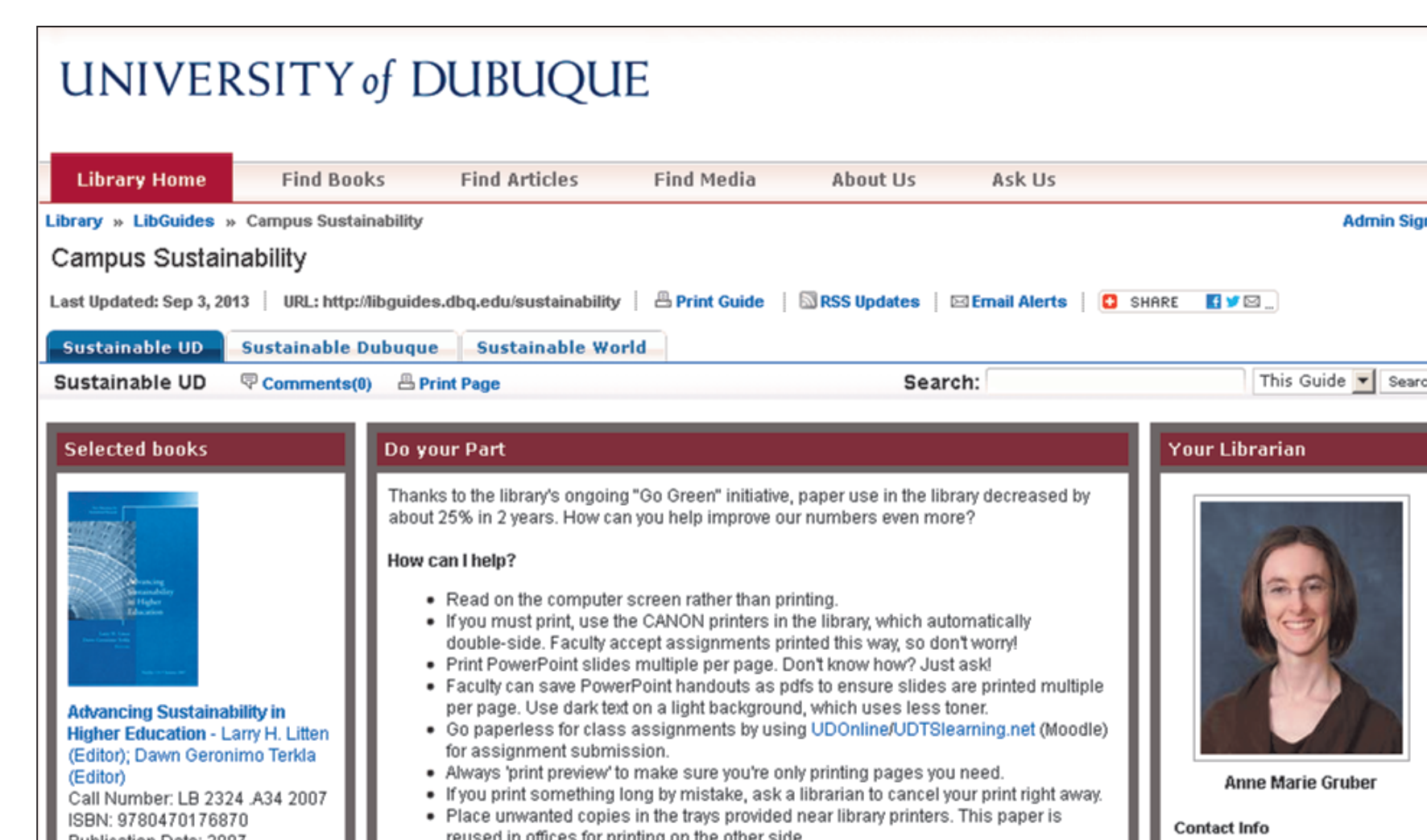


- Expanded e-delivery service to reduce photocopying: staff scan library materials (within copyright), post scans online

4. Staff reuse one-sided paper in offices for printing and scratch paper

Educational Partnerships

1. Created an online sustainability research guide:
<http://libguides.dbq.edu/sustainability>



2. Built a collection of campus sustainability materials
3. Web of Life (student environmental organization) collaborations:
 - Participate in Zero Waste Challenge for library study break events
 - Use library recycling bin signage template in other buildings
 - Create displays with environmental themes
4. Campus Green Team includes library representatives
5. Computer Graphics department takes discarded popular magazines for student projects
6. Little Spartans Child Care Center takes clean, used containers donated by library staff for use in children's crafts
7. Career Services puts a donation box in the library for professional clothing drive for students

Other Activities

1. As we transition materials to online, print copies are recycled
2. Among first buildings on campus to provide recycling bins for more than just paper throughout both public & staff areas
3. Duplicate copies of book club titles are purchased for library Kindles, reducing negative impact & cost of packaging/shipping process
4. Packaging materials and boxes are saved and reused

Future Directions

1. Library staff wish to expand involvement on campus Green Team
2. Participate in Zero Waste Challenge for additional library events
3. Apply for a grant to purchase/install a water bottle filler that counts how many plastic water bottles are saved



The annual library book sale provides a home for discarded/donated books. Those not sold are recycled or donated to campus organizations. Spend \$5 and receive a Charles C. Myers Library tote bag.

