

9. FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

9.1 Classrooms

The Horticulture Building has one 90-seat lecture room (Room 117 HORT) under the control of University Space Management. This room is equipped with video and computer projection as well as slide and VCR capability. Many of our courses are assigned to this room, as is our weekly departmental seminar series. Unfortunately, this room is not ADA accessible. Some of our larger enrollment courses can no longer fit into this room and must be taught outside of the Horticulture Building. The Horticulture Building also has one 30-seat lecture room (Room 210 HORT). We have scheduling control over this room and it is used extensively for upper level undergraduate and graduate courses within the department. This room is equipped with video and computer projection as well as slide and VCR capability.

9.2 Studios

There are five studios in the Horticulture Building to accommodate our landscape architecture and landscape horticulture and design programs. Students that enter our Professional Landscape Architecture Program (admitted following a screening procedure at the end of the first year) have access to assigned studio space for the remainder of their program. The sophomore studio, room 225-226 HORT, can accommodate ~28-30 students. The junior studio, 220-222 HORT, and the senior studio, room 301 HORT, can each accommodate the 20-26 students typically enrolled in each class. All studios are outfitted with drafting tables or desks plus additional worktables. We recently were able to upgrade the furniture in the senior studio so those students can have space for both drawing and computer-aided design. Students in all studios can link to both the University and HLA computer network through wireless network access. Room 117B Horticulture serves as a studio for our landscape horticulture and design program and for our introductory graphics course. Drafting tables in this studio are not assigned to individual students as this studio is used for a number of classes. When classes are not meeting in 117B, students can use this room to work on class projects. A room adjacent to 117B has lockers where students can securely store their materials.

9.3 Jury Room and Display Area

Room 310 Horticulture was recently designated as a “jury room.” This 375 sq. ft. room has display boards and flexible furnishing to accommodate group meetings, crits and presentations. Student work can also be displayed on pin-up boards throughout the second and third floors of the Horticulture Building. These areas are assigned to particular classes and student work is typically displayed throughout the academic year.

9.4 Plant collections and outdoor laboratory space

The department maintains a display garden adjacent to the Horticulture Building. This garden is used as an outdoor laboratory for HORT 218 Herbaceous Landscape Plants and other classes. The garden is also used for Master Gardener activities and is maintained for the general enjoyment and education of the community. HORT 217, Woody Landscape Plants utilizes the entire campus as a plant collection resource. The department teaching program also uses the Maxwell Tract and plantings at the Horticulture Farm and Meigs Farm for educational purposes.

9.5 Instructional Computer Laboratory

Room 204 Horticulture, the Hafele-Stinson Resource Center, is an instructional computer laboratory. The lab was completed in 1999 and currently consists of 20 workstations with network access to the campus network and the internet, an LCD projector connected to one of the workstations, 3 flatbed scanners, 2 black and white laser printers, and one color tabloid size printer. In addition we have two large format (36" wide) color printers and a large format (40" wide) scanner, which are housed in Room 203A Horticulture. There are three configurations of workstations in the lab ranging from 1 to 2.8 GHz processors. All workstations have a Zip drive and CD-RW drives so the students can backup their large files. Two servers utilizing a Windows 2000 server network support the workstations. One server is primarily a file server while the other is a print server. The two servers also serve as redundant domain controllers. The file server has 205 GB of file space, which is shared by faculty, staff, grad students, and undergraduate students. While this server is a departmental server, we utilize the user accounts provided by the university. This not only makes it easier for the students but also gives them access to their file space on the university system. Currently we have over 500 accounts on the server. We also have a CD server, which allows us to share CD's to the users.

Software packages available on the workstations include Microsoft Office XP, Publisher, Adobe PhotoShop 6, Adobe PageMaker 6.5, AutoCAD 2002 & 2004, Viz 4, ArcView, Adobe Illustrator 10, Macromedia Freehand 10, and SAS.

When not used for classroom computer-aided instruction, this room is available to HLA students. The instructional computer laboratory is open 24 hours a day and 7 days a week during the academic year. The twenty workstations and associated hardware are used extensively by landscape architecture students for computer-aided design and developing presentation graphics. Horticulture undergraduate and graduate students also use this room. As more of our courses use web-based teaching resources, the pressure on this room increases. An analysis of computer-use during fall 2001 indicated that the average workstation was used in excess of 60 hours per week. Despite this pressure, we do not intend to add an additional instructional computer laboratory. Instead, we are pursuing two separate alternatives. First, we obtained a wireless, mobile cart with 22 laptop computers equipped with wireless networking. This allows us to create an additional classroom with computer capabilities for instructional purposes. Secondly, we will require our landscape architecture students to obtain their own computers with wireless networking cards. Students will be able to perform computer-aided design in the landscape architecture studios. We intend to continue providing network infrastructure, software and associated peripherals. Both of these alternatives will reduce the pressure on our current instructional computer laboratory, yet enable us to continue to meet the needs of our students and faculty.

9.6 Computer infrastructure and support

The Landscape Architecture Program as well as the entire department benefits from an extensive computer network that is connected to the Purdue Data Network. This network is maintained in conjunction with the Information Technology at Purdue (ItaP) organization. The network supports both Macintosh and Windows platforms and currently connects over 195 computers and 50 network devices (printers, web cams, wireless access points, etc.) within the department to the campus network and the outside world. In order to provide technical support related to computing services and in an attempt to keep pace with the changing technology, the department has a full time Computer Specialist plus a three-quarter time Computer Support Assistant. Carl Geiger and Brett Jungels bring considerable expertise to the Computer Support Services area and support our ability to use computer technology in all our programs within the department.

Both the Department and the Landscape Architecture Program maintain major web sites that include information about our various programs. (See <http://www.hort.purdue.edu> and <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/hort/landarch/landarch.html>) These sites average just over 1 million requests a month and have served as an additional vehicle for communicating with our students, recruiting new students and maintaining contact with alumni. We have noted a significant increase in inquiries by prospective students through our web pages. Increasingly, faculty members are using the Web as a source of information in courses. Several HLA faculty members have established extensive web pages for their individual courses. As well as the department web server, the faculty also has access to WebCT on the university server for developing instructional web sites.

While the costs of developing and maintaining state-of-the-art computing facilities is significant, we feel that the department has made significant progress in this area over the last few years. Furthermore, we are committed to the continued development of computing facilities related to all or departmental programs.

9.7 University Library Collection

The collections and services of the purdue university libraries are an important resource for a student's educational experience. The library system on the West Lafayette Campus includes 13 subject-oriented libraries and the Hicks Undergraduate Library. The Libraries provide a print collection of more than 2,400,000 volumes and over 2,500,000 microforms of older scholarly materials and many current scientific and technical reports. Approximately 20,000 serial titles are received, including periodicals and serial publications of societies, institutions, and the federal and state governments. Federal government publications are received on a depository basis. The Libraries also offer a wide variety of electronic information sources, including bibliographic databases and electronic journals.

THOR (THE Online Resource) at www.lib.purdue.edu is the Libraries gateway to electronic services including the local catalog, indexes, full-text resources, tutorials, selected newspapers from around the world, ready references such as dictionaries, the online catalogs of other libraries, and more, and is accessible anywhere that the World Wide Web can be accessed.

The John W. Hicks Undergraduate Library may serve many of a student's library needs, particularly during the first two years at Purdue. Here students will find assistance in locating information needed for papers and speeches as well as an extensive collection of reserve books for course assignments.

The Digital Learning Collaboratory (DLC), is located in the Undergraduate Library. It is a joint initiative of the Purdue Libraries and Information Technology at Purdue. The DLC supports student learning through access to state-of-the-art hardware and software for creating multimedia projects, in individual, group work, and instructional settings. It facilitates the integration of information and technology literacy into the undergraduate curriculum.

During their college career, students will use one or more of the subject-oriented libraries. The University has a tradition of strong specialized libraries, where journals, books, and reference materials for particular fields are located. These libraries also provide access to the Libraries' online bibliographic and full-text resources, directing students to the specialized resources needed for research and investigation in the various subjects.

The Life Sciences Library, located in Lilly Hall of Life Sciences, has the collections most closely related to the programs of the School of Agriculture and the Department of Biological Sciences. The library has about 80,000 bound volumes and more than 1,100 current subscriptions specifically on the topics of agriculture, biology, agricultural and biological engineering, agronomy, animal sciences, biochemistry, botany and plant pathology, entomology, food science and technology, forestry and natural resources, horticulture, genetics, water resources, meteorology, environment, and international agriculture. Publications are exchanged with research institutions and agricultural stations throughout the world. Numerous electronic resources also support study and research in these fields. Librarians and reference staff assist users in retrieving information in all formats.

Professor Paul Siciliano, of the Landscape Architecture Program, is the Department's representative to the School of Agriculture Library Committee. As such Paul solicits suggestions from faculty on the titles of books that should be acquired by the Purdue library system to support our programs. Paul has been a very effective advocate for the LA Program on this committee. During the last four fiscal years, library acquisitions of books (and the associated costs) specifically supporting landscape architecture have been: FY 2000 – 17 books (\$750); FY 2001 – 9 books (\$864); FY 2002 – 33 books (\$1501) and FY 2003 18 books (\$876). In addition, a special non-recurring fund entitled CityScape enabled the library to obtain 63 books (\$2,797) during this period. It should be noted that the above figures do not include books that might be applicable to landscape architecture faculty and students, yet were purchased on other accounts.

The landscape architecture faculty is in the early stages of discussion and studying strategies for implementing information literacy throughout the curriculum. Information literacy instruction will enable our students to better access and assess information, critically analyze its validity and importance, and use it creatively and appropriately in their process of decision making and design.