



Volume 64 | Issue 1

Article 7

7-1-2021


"How COVID-19 Has Affected the West Coast Baptist College Library"

Alyssa Sultanik

West Coast Baptist College, alyssa.sultanik@wcbc.edu

The Christian Librarian is the official publication of the Association of Christian Librarians (ACL). To learn more about ACL and its products and services please visit [//www.acl.org/](http://www.acl.org/)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl>

 Part of the [Collection Development and Management Commons](#), [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [Information Literacy Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Sultanik, Alyssa (2021) "'How COVID-19 Has Affected the West Coast Baptist College Library,'" *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 64: Iss. 1, Article 7.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55221/2572-7478.2252>

This Forum is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ George Fox University. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Christian Librarian by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ George Fox University. For more information, please contact arolfe@georgefox.edu.

How COVID-19 Has Affected the West Coast Baptist College Library



**Alyssa G. Sultanik, Director of Library Services
West Coast Baptist College**

Friday the 13th has never been considered a superstitious date at West Coast Baptist College (WCBC). However, March 13, 2020 (a Friday) was definitely a memorable day as that was the day WCBC's executive vice president told WCBC students that due to the pandemic, they were to go home for their own safety and that their education for the remaining semester would continue online after a four-day break. These four days were taken from unused break days that would have been used later in the semester, so the overall academic schedule was not affected by this change.

During those four days, instructors frantically worked to develop videos on upcoming class content, input lecture material into their course's learning management system using Canvas, and adjust any in-person assignments (such as in-class presentations, etc.) to be modified for the online experience.

This change in academic venue meant that the library needed to provide support for formerly on-campus students used to working with a print collection and help students adapt to using only online resources. Sometimes this meant locating additional resources for students online, scanning chapters of books for individual use in accordance with copyright laws, and supporting faculty and students during the transition. This was challenging for our library because sending the college students home meant the library lost the majority of its working staff since it was operated by a library director, a library assistant, and ten student workers participating in our work-study program. Only the library director and library assistant continued to work during that period.

On March 19, 2020, the state of California issued a Stay At Home order, which enabled work from home solutions for participating WCBC staff. During this time, the library director borrowed historically high-use books from the library collection and brought them home to use as a reference when needed for students continuing their work online. This work from home included locating open educational resources, scanning a singular chapter of a print book as needed while following

copyright laws, and curating specific resources and recommendations for classes. This support and curation of online resources for individual classes were enough to keep the director busy until the end of the semester in May. Commencement exercises that were traditionally held in May were postponed until September during Labor Day weekend.

In late April, WCBC was able to get an eight-week PPP loan, which allowed the hiring of multiple college students who were unable to go home because of travel restrictions. Eleven students and four library assistants were hired to work full-time in the library to help complete the on-going project of switching classification systems from Dewey Decimal Classification to Library of Congress Classification. Before the pandemic, the project was at 65% completion and was not expected to be completed until 2023. Due to the Herculean effort of the summer crew of 2020, the completion percentage was increased to 98%. Fall 2020 saw the completion of this project before Thanksgiving 2020.

These were some of the benefits that the WCBC Library experienced due to COVID-19.

- Completely finished converting the main stacks into Library of Congress classification
- Consistent cleaning of physical library content (books, common surfaces, chairs, etc.) Note: the library was cleaned regularly prior to COVID, but COVID has enabled establishing a more consistent cleaning schedule
- Cleared out secondary storage facility to provide space for ongoing faculty office relocation project
- Patrons learned the value of online resources and utilized online curated resources for their individual classes
- Library policies now include pandemic information for COVID compliance

While the pandemic was not what the library had planned for 2020, God was good and provided in the midst of the chaos in 2020. Students returning in person for Fall 2020 were thrilled to return to a library dedicated to providing a safe environment for study and ease of use with the completed conversion project. ✝

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Alyssa G. Sultanik is the Director of Library Services at West Coast Baptist College in Lancaster, California. She can be contacted at alyssa.sultanik@wcbc.edu.
