A Partnership for Technology Research
Supporting Innovation with the ASCEND Center at Morgan State University

Background
ASCEND is “A Student-Centered, Entrepreneurship Development: (ASCEND) Training Model to Increase Diversity in the Biomedical Research Workforce.” At the beginning of 2016, the Center decided to partner with IGI Global with the goal of assisting Morgan State University students and faculty with innovative technological research. The programs run by the NIH-funded ASCEND Center are interdisciplinary and target undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty with the goal of leading biomedical research in the region.

Solution
The ASCEND Center and the Earl S. Richardson Library invested in IGI Global databases—InfoSci-Books and InfoSci-Journals—to ensure that the research group has access to up-to-date information about emerging technologies. This partnership was put into place through the Maryland Digital Library Consortium.

Benefits for Researchers
Within the first month of adding IGI Global research to the Center’s core collection, engagement of the key departments were in progress. Specialized title lists and brochures highlighting subject-specific research were provided to the faculty in the areas of Computer Science, BioMedical Engineering, and Information Science and Systems.

IGI Global and the Center immediately began to receive requests for course-specific projects, such as an undergraduate research collaboration on biosensors. IGI Global worked with the Center to provide article and book-level persistent URL links for the project. Since all IGI Global e-resources have no DRM and unlimited users, the students were about to explore the scaffolded research from reference options, to book chapters and case studies and also more specialized journal research. The IGI Global e-resources are being utilized in the university’s Blackboard Learning Management System, as well as on department websites.

In-person trainings for faculty were planned with the Center for three 30-minute themes: research covered, as part of the information science and technology collection, how to customize research preferences, searching on the IGI Global platform, and technology accessibility for classroom use. These trainings were video recorded to allow for wider dissemination of information.

A customized “Research Trends” newsletter that summarizes key research was set up for the Center which highlights technology research in the core areas covered by the program. This quarterly newsletter is being emailed to ASCEND leadership to faculty and student researchers as requested.

"We are extremely excited to provide IGI Global research to the students and faculty in our community, as it solves our need for specialized technology research."

- Michelle Hammond, Associate Director of Public Services, Earl S. Richardson Library, Morgan State University
About IGI Global’s Databases

Founded in 1988, IGI Global is an international and leading academic publisher of reference books, journals, and databases focusing on information science and technology. IGI Global is a leader in the field of e-resources and provided high-value databases: InfoSci-Books (3,400+ e-books), InfoSci-Journals (169+ e-journals) and InfoSci-Videos (90+ streaming videos). To learn about IGI Global’s partnerships with universities and consortia, please contact: e-resources@igi-global.com

Benefits for Librarians

The Earl S. Richardson Library was able to quickly and thoroughly incorporate the IGI Global databases into the University’s system, enabling strong use of the timely technology research. Within the first week of the investment, MARC records for all 3,400+ e-books, 164 e-journals and 100+ streaming videos were incorporated into the library’s system. With specialized assistance from IGI Global, preferences to the university’s discovery system were quickly adjusted to make full use of the research.

IGI Global LibGuides are laying the groundwork for Morgan State University Librarians to copy subject-specific guides highlighting the specialized research into relevant department pages. A customized search box on the LibGuides is also being utilized.

As part of the IGI Global E-Resources Welcome Program, IGI Global created a logo for the Earl S. Richardson Library which is being utilized on customized materials for the library, such as posters about their highly indexed journals and for other library projects.

The partnership between the ASCEND Center and IGI Global will continue throughout the five-year NIH grant. Plans include collaboration for new kiosks on the university library where IGI Global will provide graphic materials to make the community aware of new technology research, as well as curating content for a Summer Research Institute.

Not only can we now afford to offer peer-reviewed reference e-books and e-journal articles, but we are also leveraging IGI Global’s team to develop customized materials and programs that facilitate use of the research for this unique project.

- Michelle Hammond, Associate Director of Public Services
  Earl S. Richardson Library, Morgan State University