Traditionally a library has been a place where patrons could locate information, both online and in physical form, and have a quiet place to work. The library at Housatonic excels at fulfilling those needs, as well as providing many other ongound services such as access to group study rooms, work tables, and lounge chairs for students to use. It also gives student access to equipment such as computers, calculators, scanner, printer and copiers. Reference librarians are always available to assist students and help them navigate the available resources, both print and online.   Student use of these onground services have been strong over the past several years.

Libraries have been moving to electronic resources and moving those resources to the web as new options are available. This year the HCC library has gone from an ongound library with online resources to a library equally online and onground. The pandemic has accelerated the movement to put library resources and services online. Over the last year the library added a Shakespeare's Globe On Screen database, Animoto, LibAnswers and Canva. A journal/magazine subscription is being considered by our staff. Further evaluation of our databases, technologies, and funding is necessary to meet the changing needs of our community. The college is in the process of adding additional programs that will require additional databases and other resources.   The Library website continues to evolve to meet the needs of the HCC community.

An example of the onground/online parallel library can be seen in reference services. Onground there is a reference librarian to aid students who come into the library. This person also answers emails and phone calls. Since the college moved online, Chat and Text have been added to the library service Ask a Librarian. There is now an Ask librarian on duty to answer

questions that arrive via Chat/Text. In the future, both services will be continued.   This means that in essence we have double reference duty/librarians during the same hours as before. This will have future implications for staffing and assigning hours. In additions, the past year has proven that many functions can be successfully done from home. This knowledge will have implications in future staffing and scheduling.

The online library will also be changing the ways library instruction is done. Librarians will be able to "drop in" on the increased number of classes held online. Instructional videos will be created and imbedded in both the library webpages and online classes. A self-paced online library-use training with programmed self-evaluation is being created. Cataloging additional electronic resources such as OER materials, government documents and vetted websites are also being considered. It will be critical that instructional librarians receive the same online training as faculty in new technologies and other innovations in teaching.

The HCC library staff is discussing and planning many changes to itself and the services it provides, but the future change that will have the greatest effect is the consolidation of the community colleges. Once that is done, decisions once made on a college level will then be made at a state level and with input from all 12 campus libraries. There is a new position, Director of all Libraries, being created. This person will have tremendous influence on the structure and function of this library.

There are many changes in the future and many opportunities for the Housatonic library. In whatever way the library changes, its focus will always be service to the students of Housatonic Community College.