Teaching and learning are the primary mission of the University of Kansas, and Information Services supports that mission not only by providing resources to help students and faculty meet their classroom goals, but also by instructing thousands of faculty, staff, and students directly each year. In 2003-2004, for example, the KU Libraries offered more than 800 individual classes and workshops, attended by more than 16,000 KU community members, and Information Technology trainers offered more than 200 workshops, attended by another 2,000 people. In addition, thousands received one-on-one instruction through interactions at reference desks, consultations with liaison librarians, and desk-side coaching appointments with IT trainers. Across IS, our common goal is to help faculty, staff, and students increase their information and technology literacy skills; it is a central service we provide to the KU community.

Because of their growing commitment to help people at KU become more effective stewards of both information and technology resources, the KU Libraries and Information Technology formed a planning group during Spring 2004 to focus on how we could work together to better meet the instructional needs of our students and colleagues. Out of that planning, Instructional Services was born. Instructional Services, a new unit housed in the KU Libraries, brings together core library faculty and staff responsible for the recent development and expansion of the library instruction program, and the team of IT trainers who have provided workshops and individual assistance to faculty and staff learning new technologies. The members of the new Instructional Services unit will develop complementary instructional programs that promote fluency with information technology, and provide the KU community with a critical foundation for effective creation, use, and preservation of information. The instructional expertise available in the new unit also will support library faculty, staff, and students who work together to provide instruction as liaisons to academic departments and Student Success programs.

A search is underway for a new Head of Instructional Services, led by a committee made up of librarians, IT staff, and colleagues from our partner programs in Student Success. Our commitment to Instructional Services reflects not only the vital role of information and technology literacy instruction on a 21st century campus, but also the place that our common commitment to student learning has in the ongoing development of the collaborative programs at the heart of the HVC2 process.