Working with the SGA, STEP Council and the Open-use STEP Lab staff, the university has initiated a new paper credit for all open-use STEP labs on campus. This spring campus STEP labs have implemented PaperCut, a print management system designed to reduce costs associated with excessive printing. As a result of sustainability efforts on campus, cost containment, and uneven distribution and use of printing resources in STEP Labs, a consensus was reached last semester between the SGA leadership, the STEP Council, and the Office of Information Technology that the time was right to initiate print credits in the open use STEP labs. This decision was supplemented by an analysis last semester by a group of our Engineering students recommending the full implementation of our PaperCut system. By reducing the printing costs funded by the STEP program budget, resources saved will be spent on sustaining technology projects across campus.

With PaperCut every student is given a credit of $25.00 per semester that means that each user has the ability to print 250 pages. STEP lab printers are set to $0.10 per page printed. Students may purchase additional prints as necessary using their Cajun Card. The analysis revealed that the average user printed below the current credit (195 pages in Fall and 236 pages in Spring). There were approximately 25 to 30 percent of total users that exceeded the current (250 pages) credit during the Spring and Fall respectively). Of the students who would have exceeded the current credit based on their previous two semesters usage, approximately 80 percent of them had an overage of less than 50 pages - which equates to approximately $5.00/user additional credit needed per semester should they continue to print at that level.

In discussions with student leaders two issues surfaced which could be impacted by the implementation of PaperCut, students printing eBooks in STEP Labs and graduate assistants printing course materials for faculty in STEP labs. These issues will be researched to determine appropriate alternatives that may include allowing eReaders in class and the use of departmental accounts for copying course materials. It is the goal of the implementation of PaperCut to improve the sustainability of the campus through reducing paper usage and to reduce STEP lab printing costs. It is hoped that this measure will allow the Student Technology Enhancement Program that is funded by self-assessed technology fees to better meet the needs of students and faculty.

For additional information please click on the web link Paper Cut. Additional Helpdesk articles about PaperCut:

[http://helpdesk.louisiana.edu/?q=content/papercut](http://helpdesk.louisiana.edu/?q=content/papercut)

[http://helpdesk.louisiana.edu/?q=content/do-you-really-need-print](http://helpdesk.louisiana.edu/?q=content/do-you-really-need-print)

[http://helpdesk.louisiana.edu/?q=content/what-little-window-my-desktop](http://helpdesk.louisiana.edu/?q=content/what-little-window-my-desktop)