LIS Education in the 21st Century: Leadership, Vision, and Management

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Landscape for Academic Libraries
Value of academic libraries

Academic libraries demonstrate alignment and impact on institutional outcomes

Leverage existing research to articulate and promote the value of academic and research libraries.

Develop and deliver responsive professional development programs that build the skills and capacity for leadership and local data-informed and evidence-based advocacy.

Influence national conversations and activities focused on the value of higher education.
Student learning

Librarians transform student learning, pedagogy, and instructional practices through creating and innovative collaborations

Build capacity for the librarians’ role in supporting faculty development and the preparation of graduate students as instructors.

Increase collaborative programs that leverage partnerships with other organizations in order to support and encourage local and national team approaches.

Articulate and advocate for the role of librarians in setting, achieving, and measuring institutional learning outcomes.

Build librarian capacity to create new learning environments (physical and virtual) and instructional practices.
Association of College and Research Libraries
Five-Year Goals, 3

Research and scholarly environment

Librarians accelerate the transition to a more open system of scholarship

Create and promote new structures that reward and value open scholarship

Influence scholarly publishing policies and practices toward a more open system.

Enhance members’ ability to address issues related to digital scholarship and data management

Model new dissemination practices
Transformational Change in the Information Landscape

- Collection size is losing importance
- Traditional library metrics do not capture value to academic mission
- Rising journal costs → alternative publishing models
- Alternatives to the library have faster growth and easier access
- Declining demand for traditional library services
- New client demands stretch budget and organizational culture
Building Digital Collections

- Ebook adoption reaching a tipping point
- Large-scale digital collections offer widespread, low-cost access
- Use restrictions and copyright are the largest obstacles to access
- Patron-driven acquisition models allow “just in time” purchasing
Repurposing Library Space

- Local print collections are large, expensive, and rarely used
- Avoid unnecessary duplication through collaborative storage and acquisition plans
- Repurpose library space to support collaborative learning
Redeploying Library Staff

- Tiered reference services free up librarian time
- Crowd-sourced reference matches supply to decreased demand
- Students in need of information literacy beyond “Library 101”
- Embedded librarians and services offer on-demand, online to students and faculty
Preparing Academic Librarians
Skills in Advocacy: Libraries in Higher Education

Increased concerns about the quality and affordability of higher education.

How well do colleges and universities prepare students for future and productive careers?

Increased demand for public scrutiny can bring into question traditional notions of self-regulation, institutional autonomy, and peer review.

Librarians must ensure that they amplify the mission of their host institutions and, ultimately, the mission of the university system at a national and international level.

Public accountability is dominating higher education. It even competes with difficult financial issues and budget cuts. – Judith Eaton, President, Council on Higher Education Accreditation
Skills in Promotion: Librarians and Assessment of Learning

Articulate and promote the importance of assessment competencies necessary for documenting and communicating library impact on student learning and success.

Collaborate with university administrators, academic staff, and faculty from across the institution to create effective student learning and assessment of learning.

Understand the value and impact of the library in relation to dimensions of student learning and success.
Skills as Educators: Engage in the Learning Process

Librarians must be involved in all aspect of the learning process, for both faculty and staff.

Engagement in curriculum design and measures of assessment

Information literacy should be embedded in all curricular activities.

Librarians should be involved in the creation of all learning-related programs.

The focus has shifted more to outcomes and away from library as a place. You need to see your role as key players in this outcomes process.

– Ralph Wolff, President and Executive Director, Western Association of Schools and Colleges
Skills as Scholars: Engage in Scholarly Output

- Increased demand for evidence-based decision making means that it is increasingly important for librarians to research their operations systematically.

- In institutions where librarians have faculty status, it is crucial that librarians contribute actively and significantly to scholarly knowledge.
  - Increased emphasis on research skills.
Skills as Publishers: Disseminators of Knowledge

Librarians need to be increasingly involved in the dissemination of knowledge beyond the traditional publishing model:

- Organizational digital repositories of knowledge created by the institution
- Open access journals and textbooks
- Integration of different aspects of a work into one site, e.g., Research articles can be integrated with primary source material, commentaries, learning objects, blog postings, etc.
Skills as Technologists: Technological Fearlessness

- In a rapidly-changing technological environment, it is difficult to teach the current tools in two-year programs. Education must go beyond teaching how to use the tools, but how to apply them to serve the mission of the library and its parent institution.

- Librarians need to have a fearless approach towards technological innovation and to be self-motivated to learn how new tools work and how they can be applied.
Dalhousie University’s Faculty of Management, which includes programs in Business, Public Administration, Information Management, Marine Affairs and Resource and Environmental Studies, offers a holistic and values-based approach to management education and research. Our vision is to be the acknowledged centre of values-based management whose graduates become private sector, public sector and civil society leaders who manage with integrity, focus on sustainability and make things happen.
The School of Information Management, in the Faculty of Management, develops and nurtures dynamic, innovative, and practical information professionals who are skilled in the management of information and technology, and who provide leadership and vision in a knowledge-based society.

In collaboration with clients and stakeholders, graduates will promote and advocate the values-based concepts of sustainability and social responsibility in the management of knowledge and information. The School advances the discipline of Information Management by pursuing creative multidisciplinary research.
Further Information

School of Information Management

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