Exploring the Changing Relationships of Academic Libraries

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LIBRARIES
The Library as Institutional Research Partner

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The Goals of Institutional Research
Identify information needs
Collect, analyze, interpret, and report data & information
Plan and evaluate
Serve as stewards of data and information
Educate information producers, users, and consumers

From the Association for Institutional Research (AIR).
https://www.airweb.org/ir-data-professional-overview/a-statement-of-aspirational-practice-for-institutional-research
The greatest potential for building effective institutional research is leveraging talent across the institution. Building the function requires coaching and professional development of employees across the institution in a purposeful and intentional process that increases capacity for data-informed decisions to permeate the institution.
UCR Library
Teaching & Learning: Two (Quick) Case Studies
• 20,000+ undergraduates
• 3,000+ graduate students
• Hispanic Serving Institution
• 60% first-in-family to complete degree
Case Study #1: Introductory Biology Lab
Background
Background
The Study

Read the article, "Paw Preference and Temperament in Cats". Then try to find the academic journal article that the news article is based on.

In two sentences or less, how did you look for the academic journal article? You can just list your methods, if you wish. Please be specific about where you searched.

What information did you use to find the article?

Did you find the academic journal article?

Yes

No
High-Level Results

• We were surprised by our findings
• It changed the way we work with this course, as well as how the course assignment played out
• Everybody gets a publication (!)
Case Study #2:
Introductory Chemistry Lab
Context

- Another long-standing course relationship
- Over 1,000 students each quarter
- Are students learning what we hope they are learning?
Data Gathering

Use Scotty, the UCR Library catalog, to find the book, *Chemistry and Cookery: Some Theories of Chemistry and Applications to Cookery Processes* by Annie Louise Macleod. What is the call number for this book?
High-Level Results

• We were surprised by our findings
• It changed the way that we worked with the course, and caused us to work more closely with the department to meet learning goals
• We changed the modality of instruction
How We Did This (and You Can Too)
Core Values

• Enter into institutional assessment with a spirit of curiosity and collaboration
• Look for partnerships that serve both the Library and the academic department
• Determine motivations outside of institutional effectiveness
• Once you have evidence, you have to act on it
Building Capacity

• Time and financial support for at least one person to be trained in evaluation, assessment, and statistics
• Time and space for teams to develop fluency with these competencies, if not expertise
• Institutional tolerance for failure…and surprises
Thank you

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Brad Warren
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A Journey: From User-Centric Services to Campus-Wide Strategic Partners
Journey – or . . . A pathway

- Services to Engagement
- ‘Servants’ to Partners
- Reactionary to Strategic
- ‘Cost-Center’ to Investment
- Taken for Granted to Key to Success
The path is change

- Multiple facets
- Traditional vs. New/Emerging
- How to do this with urgency
A Person

Roles
Identity
Relationships
Values
Motivations

I’m faculty, not a servant
A Department

Carol, Mom of Brady Bunch

Alice
Marcia
Jan
Cindy
The Service Matrix
Core Services

#OCLCLibraryFutures
Our Vision

• The University of Cincinnati Libraries will become the globally engaged, intellectual commons of the university - positioning ourselves as the hub of collaboration, digital innovation and scholarly endeavor on campus.

• The Journey to Transformational Change:
  – Digital Technologies and Innovation
  – People
  – Space
  – Data and Information to Knowledge
The Service and Engagement Sphere
Established in 2016 as a joint venture between the College of Arts and Sciences + UC Libraries.

In 2017, the DSC received a $900,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to expand this mission.

In 3 years, received $3.1M in grants, 3 books / 10 articles published, commercialization with Proctor & Gamble, CincyTech, community advocacy
UC’s Digital Catalyst

**Mission:** To create new areas of research and discovery across the university by applying AI + data visualization to human problems.

**Vision:** The DSC will be a distinctive global leader in transdisciplinary digital research.

**CORE SERVICES**
- Digital tools development & training
- Faculty development
- Digital skills for analog expertise & archives

**TEACHING**
- Intro coursework & workshops
- Student research in faculty team labs
- Job placement & digital training

**RESEARCH**
Networked Research: Leverage different funding models and different research outputs for common team goals.
DSC’s Mission

• Our core mission is to break silos and cross wires across the university. We work at the intersection of data science, the arts and humanities, and the libraries.
  – It’s an Academic Center (Arts/Humanities & Libraries)
  – Mellon Digital Integrator (1 of 6 projects worldwide)
  – University’s Anchor tenant for Digital Futures Initiative
DSC as strategic partner

- Machine Learning and Human-interpretable Data Visualization on Large Unstructured Datasets (Text, Image, Sound, Video)
- Technical catalyst / translator between disciplines that rarely interact in order to connect content experts with technical experts.
- Provide resources and infrastructure to nurture research questions and collaborations that slip between the cracks of colleges and funding agencies.

#OCLCLibraryFutures
Phase 2 – UC’s Digital Integrator

- Research
- Teaching
- Core Services

#OCLCLibraryFutures
Build that Bridge, Embark on the Next Phase of the Journey

• Our struggles are no different from anyone else, but . . .
  • Library services are how we intersect with our community of users, culture, structures, perceptions, strengths and weaknesses.
  • Services, collections, digital scholarship, research data all must work in concert with each other, not as separate enterprises.
Thank you

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