

FY13 ACRL CoPA Plan for Excellence Implementation Reports

ACRL Unit Name - North Dakota/Manitoba ACRL Chapter

ACRL Position - ND-MB ACRL Chapter Chair

First Name - Mary

Last Name - Drewes

Email - mary.drewes@library.und.edu

Value of Academic Libraries: Academic libraries demonstrate alignment with and impact on institutional outcomes.

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

Is the role of the liaison librarian changing? "Liaison Librarians: What is the Role of the Liaison Librarian" was the theme for the 2013 North Dakota-Manitoba ACRL Chapter symposium held on the University of North Dakota campus in April of this year. Thirty librarians met to discuss their research and roles as liaison librarians: new frameworks for communicating with faculty and students and learning about their needs; embedded librarian models; and active players in student-centered learning.

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

Three North Dakota ACRL members at the annual ALA Conference in Chicago presented a model for developing and delivering collaborative classroom instruction by integrating librarians, administrators and classroom teachers to advance the library skills of students transitioning from K-12 into higher education. Attendees learned about the model to train school teams using a Professional Learning Community Approach.

Student Learning: Librarians transform student learning, pedagogy, and instructional practices through creative and innovative collaborations.

1. Build librarian capacity to create new learning environments (physical and virtual) and instructional practices.

Librarians attending the spring symposium learned how a potential role for librarians can include designing student-centered learning environments in higher education. An exploratory study was conducted in which liaison librarians participated in blended learning. Through integrating face-to-face with online learning, students appreciated applying scaffolding that provided sequential steps for their research in the blended learning process.

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

Mary Feeney from the University of Arizona, the main speaker at the annual chapter symposium in April, shared her experiences as a member of the library's Research Services Team that developed a new framework for communicating with faculty and learning about the needs of faculty and students on a large academic campus. The top priority of the Research Services Team is to coordinate with campus research units and initiate outreach across campus with an emphasis on interdisciplinary research.

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Research and Scholarly Environment: Librarians accelerate the transition to a more open system of scholarship.

1. Model new dissemination practices.

As an embedded librarian who, in an online context of webinars and course support software such as Blackboard, reaches out to users in virtual space, so must librarians identify the physical spaces that students occupy during their academic careers. One librarian described her experiences as she connected more closely with her departments when she became embedded as a student. The professor introduced the librarian as the expert in her area and relied on her to hold impromptu teaching sessions and provide information about reliable resources for the class. This liaison librarian, immersed in the department as a student, not only makes connections but also increases her subject knowledge and builds great networks through both physical and virtual space.

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

John Tooth, copyright liaison for the University of Winnipeg, described the changes in the administration of copyright clearance in some Canadian academic libraries and the changes in the copyright law. These changes have impacted the liaison role of the Copyright Officer to implement initiatives with the administration, faculty and staff. The copyright liaison instructs faculty of user rights and personal and institutional liability in addition to faculty intellectual property rights, such as provided when using Creative Commons. Tooth recommended that the university provide open educational resources to make available a majority of university materials.

Enabling Programs and Services

1. Education

A panel presenting at the 2013 symposium shared their models as liaison librarians. Librarians on some campuses reach out to external communities through presentations and collaborate with faculty on grant writing and digital projects. Librarians may have a variety of methods to liaise with their departmental faculty, such as pathfinders, embedding in Blackboard, or being active in the campus community. Some embedded librarians communicate with students through Facebook and other social media. There are many models for a liaison librarian.

3. Advocacy

The newly revised website for the North Dakota-Manitoba ACRL Chapter by Lenard Lawless will allow members the option of paying for their membership renewals online through a PayPal account. The new website also contains an executive-only page for board members, past treasurer reports, minutes of past annual business meetings, ACRL Chapter and ACRL National calendar events, and the archives of the Chapter. The newly enhanced website will keep ND-MB ACRL Chapter members up-to-date on chapter news and events.