Building an academic article around the literature
My History of Literature Surveys
New Review of Academic Librarianship Call for Papers: Special Issue

Deadline: 13 August 2017

Positioning the academic library within the institution: structures and challenges

An opportunity has arisen to submit your research to an upcoming special issue of New Review of Academic Librarianship. Listed across a number of key citation and abstraction indices, now is a particularly exciting time to publish within this well-established, highly-regarded journal.

Context for the special issue

The higher education environment is constantly changing. Sector-wide or institutional priorities can shift very quickly and consequently, the university library needs to be able to adapt to ensure that it is strategically-positioned or aligned within the institution.

Therefore, the themed issue for 2018 will be ‘Positioning the academic library within the institution’. This issue will cover a wide range of sub-topics such as institutional organisational structures, emerging responsibilities and new ways of working, leading...
Common Thread: linkage to work interests

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Publication</th>
<th>Work</th>
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<td>1988</td>
<td>Keyguide: CAD/CAM</td>
<td>Engineering Librarian: intermediary</td>
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<td>1991</td>
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<td>2016</td>
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<td>University Librarian: digital archives</td>
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<td>2018</td>
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What is a Literature Review?

• Hard work...
• Educational for author and reader
• Narrative overview of key research
• Signpost to further information
• Either:
  • Brief overview of broad area, or
  • More detailed focus on specific area
• Timeframe can vary
• Should indicate scope, sources
Key Steps in Writing a Review

- Establish scope
- Identify sources
- Absorb key messages
- Synthesise and plan
- Write
- Finalise
Scope:

Linkage to issue theme, eg:

- Librarian as communicator
- Positioning the academic library

Influenced by:

- Reading the literature
- Own interests
- Discussion with editor

Examples:

- Inclusion of open access in digital scholarship
- Coverage of internationalisation in positioning
Identify Sources

Being a librarian helps!

IReL and open access are major assets

Record search terms and sources

Be flexible, open and inclusive

Use abstracts, contents tables, skimming

Branch out from key readings
Absorb Key Messages

Focused, engaged reading
Not too much reading at once
Keep the end in mind
Selective note-taking
Notes to self

https://www.sconul.ac.uk/publication/the-view-from-beyond

P 5
struck by how much
the views correlate, complement, and enhance the themes of the larger and parallel research, ‘The view from above’

[JC: but only six interviewees – librarians rather than VCs, PVCs etc]
Key Messages to Communicate

What needs to be communicated? Partnership role (P8-9; 21,23,30); benefits/justification (P4 Tanner, P15 Calhoun, incl institutional credit); value proposition (P16); social roles and communities, including evolution from collection-centric view (P14); strategy (Smithsonian (P4), Manchester (P12-13), DSES NUIG); **Library advantages, (P7, 8, 22, 23, 26 good) as DS space/resource** (DSCs, but not always needed, P9, 31) and re RDM (P12); people/teams, incl job titles (P 26,31,32, 34 Brown); project selection; sustainability/grants (P9, 10-11, 16 Lampert, Maron; 37), maybe cost recovery (P11); management of expectations (P7, 11, 12-13, 28, 38); who does what (RDM P22; DS P34); national/international dimension (P10, 15, 19, 39 monitor external developments); confidence that library can deliver/contribute significantly, eg RDM (P12), or lead (P22, 23); service model (P 28)

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**P 7 Sinclair – library advantages**

p. 2 – **why libraries are natural incubators for DS – neutral space + role in curating, describing and preserving scholarship + commitment to open access and data sharing** – strong section:

“This brings me to **libraries**, the shared spaces on each of our campuses that are ripe for transformation into incubators for digital scholarship. I propose that the 21st century academic library, perhaps more than any other unit on campus, is poised to support and promote that digital scholarship originating from multiple departments on campus, bringing them together in a central
Key Messages to Communicate

Libraries bring much to the digital scholarship table and need to communicate these advantages strongly. Sinclair argues that libraries are natural incubators for digital scholarship and others (Alexander, Rockenbach) make a similar case in relation more specifically to the digital humanities. Positive features include libraries as neutral, interdisciplinary spaces with staff who can bring together the many different and often disparate players on campus, at minimum enabling dialogue but often also productive partnership between them. Strong relationships with faculty, often forged by liaison librarians, and a habit of collaboration and connecting can be leveraged to the full in this regard. The library as place is a significant asset and there has been a move towards establishing digital scholarship centres in library buildings, with numerous examples in the United States in particular (Sinclair). A particular advantage the library can offer is to make expensive technologies available for use and experimentation at an accessible and welcoming location by anyone on campus (Lippincott and Goldenberg-Hart).
Finalise

Allow 2 weeks
Let EndNote/preferred citation manager take the strain
Many journals offer easy citation download
Read and re-read
Don’t forget to write a strong abstract
Submit

Abstract

Academic libraries enable a wide range of digital scholarship activities, increasingly as a partner rather than a service provider. Communicating that shift in role is challenging, not least as digital scholarship is a new field whose activities on campus can be disjointed. The library’s actual and potential contributions need to be broadcast to a diverse range of internal and external constituencies, primarily academic staff, university management, library colleagues and related project teams, often with different perspectives. Libraries have significant contributions to offer and a focused communications strategy is needed to embed libraries in digital scholarship and to create new perceptions of their role as enabling partners.

Key Messages to Communicate

Libraries bring much to the digital scholarship table and need to communicate these advantages strongly. Sinclair (2014) argues that libraries are natural incubators for digital scholarship and others (Alexander, et al., 2014; Rockenbach, 2013, pp. 2-3) make a similar case in relation more specifically to the digital humanities. Positive features include libraries as neutral, interdisciplinary spaces with staff who can bring together the many different and often disparate players on campus, at minimum

References

Communicating New Library Roles to Enable Digital Scholarship: A Review Article

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ABSTRACT
Academic libraries enable a wide range of digital scholarship activities, increasingly as a partner rather than as a service provider. Communicating that shift in role is challenging, not least as digital scholarship is a new field with many players whose activities on campus can be disjointed. The library’s actual and potential contributions need to be broadcast to a diverse range of internal and external constituencies, primarily academic staff, university management, library colleagues and related project teams, often with different perspectives. Libraries have significant contributions to offer and a focused communications strategy is needed to embed libraries in digital scholarship and to create new perceptions of their role as enabling partners.

KEYWORDS
Digital scholarship; communications strategy; digitization; open access; publishing; roles; scholarly communication; university libraries

Introduction
Digital scholarship has generated new roles for libraries in recent years. It spans all disciplines, ranging in terminology from e-science to the digital humanities. Neat definitions of digital scholarship are elusive, however, and Waters (2013, p. 3) notes hundreds of definitions even of digital humanities on three different websites. Lynch (2014, p. 10) refers to a digital scholarship disconnect, questioning the need to


Fallon, Helen. Academic Writing Librarians (blog). Top Tips from Journal Editors and Published Authors, http://academicwritinglibrarian.blogspot.ie/