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The Library As Network Hub

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The Library As Network Hub

The Library as Network Hub

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In the 21st century, librarians and library services have long since moved past a time of being “about books.” In fact, according to the *Oxford English Dictionary* a library can be “a great mass of learning or knowledge” as well as “an organized collection of routines” as derived from computing. Librarians have come to realize that adhering to the traditional definition of roles and placement of “the library” and “library services” vastly limits their engagement in any given community. In order for librarians and libraries to thrive in an increasingly networked and interconnected world, we have broadened the roles and services we offer to encompass more of the activities involved with “a great mass of learning or knowledge.” This issue of *Collaborative Librarianship* explores ways that the librarians have broadened their roles and services to interact much more deeply with their communities.

The issue starts off with two guest columns exploring ways in which cooperative activities enrich local activities. Maureen Cole explores how collaboration develops and flourishes in public libraries through the metaphor of cocktail creation. Jim Craner, taking Lori Ayres’ normal spot, provides a snapshot of how Code4Lib “unconference” meetings are created and thrive through community building.

This issue’s From the Field reports provide multifaceted ways in which librarians can immerse themselves into roles and services not traditionally part of most library settings. One article presents best practices for managing and evaluating

library residency programs. This practical guide will be helpful to other institutions considering this sort of program implementation and to librarians seeking residency opportunities. Another From the Field article is a case study describing the immersion of digital humanities in a library through team and project-based activities. This can be seen as a type of on-the-job training approach for librarians to deepen their skills and competencies by including digital humanity methodologies in their projects and scholarship. By basing the work in a team-based structure, librarians collaborated on a project that benefitted them individually while providing value to the library. A report from New York University describes how they’ve developed a new level of interaction with faculty through the creation of a new position entitled Librarian for Research Data Management and Reproducibility. This librarian works directly with faculty on campus through a newly created Center for Open Science. The remaining article describes how the University of Houston Libraries acted as a hub to bring together arts and sciences on their campus and in their broader community through the development of an Artists’ Health and Wellness Colloquium and Resource Fair. This project, which brought together disparate disciplines from across campus and around Houston, shows how the library can help build community. In all four of these reports, librarians have found ways to broaden their roles and provide opportunities for a more diffused but deeper interaction within their institutions.



One scholarly article in this issue explores ways that academic libraries can learn from public libraries to expand their usual suite of user services to include social services. This article provides an overview of various projects undertaken by public libraries to offer social services to patrons, and outlines how academic librarians and libraries can also help to retain at-risk students. Academic librarians and libraries can often serve as connectors to social services on campus by providing information and handouts on these services. Another scholarly article examines the inter-relationship that can be developed between a large urban university and their large urban public library to help provide access to content through additional hyper-linking of material made available by public libraries. The last

scholarly article examines ways in which academic libraries can collaborate with non-academic units at their institutions to provide services that are beneficial to both groups.

Throughout this issue, you will find new and innovative ways in which librarians are collaborating with a variety of groups both within their organizations and beyond to create new connections for the distribution of mass knowledge and learning. These new collections of routines help to augment the library presence and show value beyond traditional expectations of the library's role. Through these collaborative efforts, librarians demonstrate that they and their libraries are integral parts of their communities.