

ACRL Plan for Excellence Implementation Report from MACRL

(submission deadline: July 27, 2018)

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Value of Academic Libraries

The Missouri Association of College and Research Libraries (MACRL) serves as a unit of the Missouri Library Association. During the Missouri Library Association (MLA) Annual Conference held October 4 – 7th in St. Louis, MO, MACRL sponsored presentations that highlighted how academic libraries are proving their impact to their institutions.

In one such program, “Assessing our Learning Commons Implementation with Library Data”, presenter Shelly McDavid related how data was obtained, analyzed, and interpreted to guide decision making in a multi-year project. In the case of the Curtis Laws Wilson Library, multiple types of data were used to inform the development of a learning commons, as well as substantiate its positive effects on student library usage.

Judy Geczl helped attendees grapple with an often problematic assessment tool in another MACRL sponsored program called “What are They Thinking? Tips on How to Build an Effective Survey.” This session walked attendees through the process of planning this form of assessment, as well as ways to draft effective survey questions that lead to meaningful results.

Student Learning

MACRL again took advantage of the MLA Annual Conference to sponsor multiple presentations related to maximizing student learning. The first was presented by MACRL board member, Kimberly Moeller, who outlined her approach to integrating information literacy into the curriculum in the session “Curriculum Mapping Lite: A Strategic Approach to Information Literacy in Course Progression.” The presentation called for collaboration between librarians and faculty to integrate information literacy outcomes and curriculum into disciplinary programs.

Amanda Albert broached student learning from a different angle in her session “Building Bridges: Using Learning Theory as a Foundation to Teach ESL Learners to Frame Information Creation as a Process.” This session drew upon established pedagogical theory to develop student’s curiosity around information creation, information resources, and their role as information creators.

In yet another MACRL sponsored session, “Library instruction at the crossroads: Focusing your instruction to meet students’ needs” Robert Hallis reported on a study he conducted utilizing students’ interaction with newspaper opinion pieces to reveal the information skills students need, as well as how best to teach them. In a final sponsored session, “Exploring Primary Source Materials: The Library of Congress,” presenters Jane Theissen, Peggy Ridlen, and Justin Megahan demonstrated how the Library of Congress digital collections can be used to generate understanding and interest in the role primary sources bring to Information Literacy.

In addition to sponsoring sessions, MACRL held a luncheon at the MLA Annual Conference which allowed librarians to learn how we can effectively engage students with their own learning from Kevin Fosnacht, a researcher and faculty member at the University of Indiana Bloomington’s National Survey of Student Engagement.

In March of 2017, MACRL invited academic librarians from across the state to the University of Missouri in Columbia in order to explore effective student learning activities related to fake news. The workshop included a viewing of the ACRL webinar “Fighting Fake News with the ACRL Framework” followed by a group discussion.

Research and Scholarly Environment

NA

New Roles and Changing Landscapes

NA

Enabling Programs and Services

As part of the March event, MACRL hosted a lunch for librarians across the state to network and socialize.