What Do We Want to Know?
Articulating a Research Agenda for the Value of Academic Libraries
Overview of VAL Initiative

- July 2009 – Board Invitational “Value of Academic Libraries Research” Meeting
- Fall 2009 – RFP issued for comprehensive literature analysis
- April 2011 – Plan for Excellence adopted
- May 2011 – Board charges Value of Academic Libraries Committee
- October 2011 – IMLS Collaborative Planning Grant awarded
- November/December 2011 – IMLS Funded Summits
- January 2012 – Update forum at Midwinter; Research Agenda Summit proposed
- June 2012 – Connect, Collaborate, and Communicate: A Report from the Value of Academic Libraries Summits released; Invitational Research Agenda Meeting; Update forum at Annual
- September 2012 – IMLS National Leadership Demonstration Grant “Assessment in Action: Academic Libraries and Student Success” awarded
The Best Research...

- Has an impact on individuals and populations
- Leads to decision-making, action-taking, practical tools/skills for library users
- Includes different sub-populations
- Addresses current gaps in research
- Uses rigorous research methods
- States limitations clearly and responsibly
Invitational Research Agenda Meeting

• Pre-Meeting to ALA Annual Conference in 2012
• 45 Participants (Librarians, Researchers, LIS Faculty, IMLS Staff, ACRL Staff)
• Purpose:
  – Identify Research Questions
  – Suggest Research Designs and Methodologies
  – Prioritize Research Needs
• Outcome: Draft Statement
VAL Report Research Agenda:

The Library contributes to ...

– student enrollment
– student retention and graduation rates
– student success
– student achievement
– student learning
– student experience

– faculty research productivity
– faculty grant proposals and funding
– faculty teaching
– overall institutional reputation or prestige
Goal: **FOCUSED** Research Agenda:

The Library contributes to ...

- student enrollment
- **student retention** and graduation rates
- student success
- student achievement
- student learning
- student experience

- faculty research productivity
- faculty grant proposals and funding
- faculty teaching
- overall institutional reputation or prestige
Creating a Research Agenda

- Determine profession’s major needs
- Develop a consensus on the parameters & specifics of “academic library value/impact”
- Identify key authors in the field
- Develop a literature review
- Describe strengths/weaknesses of existing research
- Identify key research questions
- Determine how they can be answered
- Identify issues related to study design, methodology, potential data sources, study sites
- Identify venues for dissemination of future research, including journals & conferences
- Recruit partners/collaborators for future research
- Secure funding
- Determine priorities for research
- Determine how to involve stakeholders in identifying & using research findings
- Draft an agenda, solicit comments, revise agenda
Value of Academic Libraries Report

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Connect, Collaborate, and Communicate:
A Report from the Value of Academic Libraries Summits

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June 2012 Research Agenda Meeting Kicked-Off

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• Develop a consensus on the parameters & specifics of “academic library value/impact”
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The Future

- Determine profession’s major needs
- Develop a consensus on the parameters & specifics of “academic library value/impact”
- Identify key authors in the field
- Develop a literature review
- Describe strengths/weaknesses of existing research
- Identify key research questions
- Determine how they can be answered
- Identify issues related to study design, methodology, potential data sources, study sites
- Identify venues for dissemination of future research, including journals & conferences
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- Draft an agenda, solicit comments, revise agenda
Assessment in Action Grant

• Professional development for librarians delivered via a blended learning environment and a peer-to-peer network.

• Librarians will lead campus teams in developing and implementing an action learning project examining the impact of the library on student success.

• Ultimately, grant will document a variety of approaches to assessing library impact on student learning.

• Test and further develop the research agenda.
Questions?
Comments?
Thank You!