The Value of Academic Libraries: Findings and Implications for the Profession

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A wind of change was sweeping through the old bunkhouse, and Zeke didn't care for it one little bit.
VALUABLE
which a promise
includes many
grant, and in
love and a

VALUATION
1. estimating worth or
2. act estimating the

VALUE
worth of all the
thing that will be give
What’s the Evidence?
The Value of Academic Libraries: An ACRL Initiative

- Align libraries with institutional outcomes.
- Empower libraries to carry out work locally.
- Create shared knowledge and understanding.
- Contribute to higher education assessment.

http://www.acrl.ala.org/value/
The Context for Value

Few libraries exist in a vacuum, accountable only to themselves. There is always a larger context for assessing library quality, that is, what and how well does the library contribute to achieving the overall goals of the parent constituencies?

(Pritchard, 1996)
Guiding Principles

• Value defined in terms of institutional, not library, goals.
• The project will identify measurable surrogates that demonstrate the library’s impact on institutional goals.
• Libraries need best practices on measuring identified surrogates.
• The project should explain how the findings should inform data collection decisions of academic libraries in the future.
Recommendations
Define outcomes
Create or adopt systems for assessment management
Determine what libraries enables students, faculty, student affairs professionals, administrators and staff to do.
Develop systems to collect data on individual library user behavior, while maintaining privacy.
Record and increase library impact on student enrollment.
Link libraries to improved student retention and graduation rates.
Review course content, readings, reserves, and assignments.
Document and augment library advancement of student experiences, attitudes, and perceptions of quality.
Track and increase library contributions to faculty research productivity.
Contribute to investigate library impact on faculty grant proposals and funding, a means of generating institutional income.
Demonstrate and improve library support of faculty teaching.
Create library assessment plans.
Promote and participate in professional development.
Mobilize library administrators.
Leverage library professional associations.
Define outcomes.
Use existing data.
Develop systems to collect data on individual library user behavior, while maintaining privacy.
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
What Comes After the Report?

Freely available online: http://www.acrl.ala.org/value/
“The motion has been made and seconded that we stick our heads in the sand.”
Report complemented by ... 

• *Futures Thinking for Academic Librarians: Higher Education in 2025* (June 2010) – http://www.acrl.org/futures

• *Top Ten Trends in Academic Libraries* (June 2010) - http://crln.acrl.org/content/71/6/286.full

• *Environmental Scan* (forthcoming April 2011)
Next Steps for ACRL

• Professional Development
  – OnPoint Chat
  – Upcoming Presentations
    (http://www.acrl.ala.org/value/?page_id=39Publications)

• Publications
  – Toolkit
    (http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/issues/value/valueofacademiclibrariestoolkit.cfm)
    – Revised *Standards for Academic Libraries in Higher Education* (in process)

• Research

• Member Services
thank you
questions
comments