

Plan for Excellence

Association of College & Research Libraries

Approved April 20, 2011 • Effective July 1, 2011

Reaffirmed September 2013 and objectives revised, March 2016

Preamble

The strengths and capacities of ACRL have enabled the association to sustain exemplary programs and results for its members and to shape policies and practices of vital interest to higher education. ACRL's Plan for Excellence continues that path and focuses attention on four areas that capitalize on our strengths, deliver high member value, and heighten our impact:

- Value of Academic Libraries
- Student Learning
- Research and Scholarly Environment
- New Roles and Changing Landscapes

These strategic areas will be supported by financial and operational planning, and will guide the development and implementation of programs and services that target education, advocacy and member engagement.

ACRL's leadership views strategic thinking and planning as an ongoing process. Adoption of this plan for excellence affirms the general intent and direction articulated by the association's core ideology, envisioned future, shorter-term goals, and objectives. Progress will be assessed annually and will guide the operational planning process. The plan for excellence will be updated based on achievement of the goals and their continued relevance as new needs and opportunities arise.

Timeless Core Ideology

Core Purpose

To lead academic and research librarians and libraries in advancing learning and scholarship.

Core Organizational Values

ACRL is committed to:

- visionary leadership, transformation, new ideas, and global perspectives
- exemplary service to members
- diversity
- integrity and transparency
- continuous learning
- responsible stewardship of resources
- the values of higher education, intellectual freedom, the ALA Ethics policy, and "The Library Bill of Rights"

Long-term Envisioned Future

Vision

Academic and research librarians and libraries are essential to a thriving global community of learners and scholars.

Vivid Description of a Desired Future

ACRL elevates the position, recognition, and impact of all academic and research libraries and librarians as catalysts in exceptional research and learning. College and university students are information literate, informed scholars and citizens. Facile use of information sources and discovery techniques enables them to succeed in their coursework and future careers; preparing them to lead new national and global initiatives. Partnering with academic librarians to collect and organize research data, faculty break new ground in their respective fields. Academic libraries, constantly transforming to meet the evolving needs of their campuses, are central to educational and research efforts. Librarians and their colleagues design services that provide scholars and learners the unfettered ability to create, access, evaluate, and use knowledge on a global scale.

Five-Year Goals and Objectives

Value of Academic Libraries

Goal: Academic libraries demonstrate alignment with and impact on institutional outcomes.

Proposed Objectives:

1. Articulate a research agenda that communicates the value of academic and research libraries.
2. Promote the impact and value of academic and research libraries to the higher education community.
3. Build on Assessment in Action to expand community of practice and professional development opportunities.
4. Support libraries in advancing issues of equity, access, diversity, and inclusion.

Student Learning

Goal: Advance innovative practices and environments that transform student learning.

Proposed Objectives:

1. Challenge librarians and libraries to engage every student with information literacy skills and in a way that is scalable and sustainable.
2. Increase the impact of information literacy by forming strategic partnerships with relevant organizations.
3. Build capacity for librarians to collaborate with faculty and other campus partners in instructional and curricular design and delivery that will integrate information literacy into student learning.
4. Articulate and advocate for the role of librarians in setting, achieving, and measuring institutional student learning outcomes.
5. Investigate and advocate for the inclusion of teaching and learning into library and information science school curricula by collaborating with relevant ALA groups and organizations.

Research and Scholarly Environment

Goal: Librarians accelerate the transition to more open and equitable systems of scholarship.

Proposed Objectives:

1. Increase the ways ACRL is an advocate and model for open dissemination and evaluation practices.
2. Enhance members' capacity to address issues related to scholarly communication, including but not limited to data management, library publishing, open access, and digital scholarship.
3. Influence scholarly publishing policies and practices toward a more open system.

New Roles and Changing Landscapes

Goal: Academic and research library workforce effectively navigates change in higher education environments.

Objectives:

1. Deepen ACRL's advocacy and support for a full range of information professionals.
2. Equip library workforce at all levels to effectively lead, manage, and embrace change.
3. Expand ACRL's role as a catalyst for transformational change in higher education.