Developing Openness through Scholarly Communications in the Academic Library

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Abstract

Librarian perspectives range from protective and permissions-oriented about resources to being very open about sharing information. As librarian roles evolve, their values, identities, and responsibilities are changing as well.

This poster outlines some ways academic librarians are infusing aspects of openness into their work. Librarians are focusing on open activities such as promoting and planning in support of instruction, discovery, research, copyright, preservation, and more. The poster highlights the team effort needed to support openness efforts.

Openness in moving to open data, open research, open publishing, open educational resources, open pedagogy, and open education in general, is a growing strategic goal and forward-thinking endeavor for many, but not all, librarians. The poster includes preliminary results of a survey of librarian perceptions and attitudes about use and support for open educational resources.

Changes in perception leading to updated vision, mission, values, and action are highlighted. Best practices for developing a scholarly communications unit to support OER, an open institutional repository, and open scholarship are shared, along with informal assessment and future plans for supporting digital scholarship initiatives.

"Open educational resources (OER) are free and openly licensed educational materials that can be used for teaching, learning, research, and other purposes."
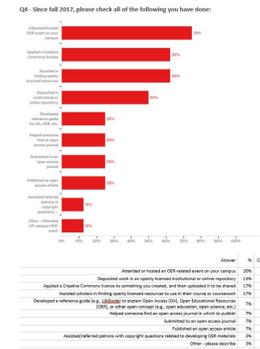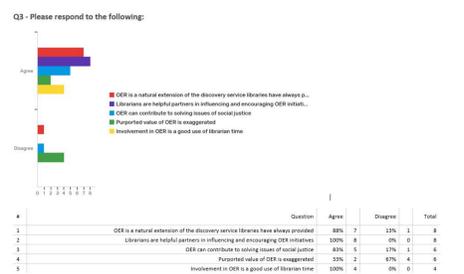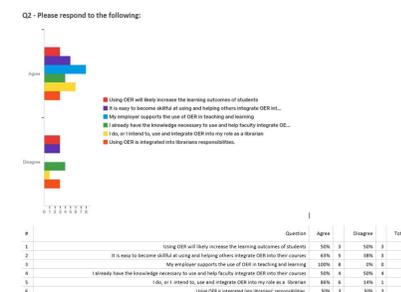
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Pilot Survey and Results

A convenience sample of 12 academic librarians were invited to participate in an online Qualtrics survey regarding openness perception and practice. The pilot survey yielded 8 responses (66% return). Respondents' experience as academic librarians ranged from 2 years to 25+ years. All reported being very comfortable with using technology. The survey will be refined and replicated with a larger group (SUNYLA listserv @ 250 respondents) during fall 2018. Preliminary results are shown below.

Survey of librarian perceptions of openness

Q7 - Other comments regarding librarians' use of OER:
-Whether or not the use of OER is integral to a librarian cannot be separated from the role a particular librarian has in the library. The nature of an individual librarian's job may mean they do not have the time to assist with OER beyond that required of their existing duties, such as working a reference desk.

-It is new to many folks and will take time to gain traction.

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Lessons Learned

- Use Library/IT/Instructional Design teams
- Develop 'coalition of the willing' partnerships w faculty/students
- Embed 'Openness' in Scholarly Communications
- Encourage librarians as change agents
- Cross-train for sustainability
- Show appreciation for champions!

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