Evolving Roles of Librarians: Juggling Print and Electronic Collections While Making Meaningful Connections

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EVOLVING ROLES OF LIBRARIANS: Juggling Print and Electronic Collections While Making Meaningful Connections

By Jorge Leon and Barbara M. Pope, Leonard H. Axe Library Pittsburg State University CULS Conference 2016, Manhattan KS
TRADITIONAL ROLES OF LIBRARIANS

- Information Literacy / Instruction
- Collection Development
- Creating Access to Materials in Print and Electronic Formats
- Research Aids and Providing Reference Assistance
- Archival and Preservation Tasks

Leonard H. Axe Library years ago...with orange walls
NEW AND EVOLVING LIBRARY ROLES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

- Information and Metadata Literacy
- Open Access and Open Education Resources Literacy
- Outreach Librarian and Library Commons Coordinator
- Assessment and User-Study Coordinators
- Technology and Digital Resource Librarianship
CHALLENGES DURING THE 21ST CENTURY

- Desire to add new services and resources
- Lack of space
- Flat or declining budgets
- Too many roles and responsibilities
- Disconnect between users and print / electronic resources
- Changes in checkout pattern
A LITTLE ABOUT PITT STATE

Brief University Data

• Undergraduate and Graduate Programs
• Many Online Only Classes – 140+
• Number of Majors – 150+
• Student to Faculty Ratio – 19:1
• Number of Students – 7,400
• FTE – 6,771
A Snap-Shot of our students during Finals Fall 2015

Recurring student art display

Studying during late night extended hours

Study group during Finals Fall 2015
CHALLENGES AT LEONARD H. AXE LIBRARY

- Collection Development Policies and Procedures Were Out of Date
- Multi-year Renovation and Remodel Plan
- Reorganization of Positions
  - New Dean of Library Services
  - Learning Outreach Librarian
  - Digital Initiatives Librarian
MAIN GOALS WE SET OURSELVES

Develop new and innovative ways to make meaningful connections with users

Capitalize on users’ expertise to create content and help us connect back to collections
BRIDGING OUTREACH AND COLLECTIONS

- Give users more Ownership over the space
- Create partnerships where users feel empowered to Create Content in the library
- Promote user events & programs that encourage using library resources
GIVING USERS OWNERSHIP OF SPACE

- Murals & Partnership With Faculty
- Student Displays of Art Objects, Photographs
- Library Renovation Involvement & User Studies
- Mediated Reservation of Group Work Spaces
- Sororities and Fraternities - “Letters In The Library”
GIVING USERS OWNERSHIP OF SPACE
GIVING USERS OWNERSHIP OF SPACE
PARTNERSHIPS WHERE USERS CREATE CONTENT IN THE LIBRARY

Reasons for student groups to use library space:

- Discuss social issues and concerns
- Promote their projects
- Recruit for their organizations

Examples:

- Students 4 Sustainability
- Food drives & canned art
- Equal Pay 2016 Event
- Banned & Challenged books conversations
USERS CREATING CONTENT IN THE LIBRARY
USERS CREATING CONTENT IN THE LIBRARY
PROMOTE USER EVENTS / PROGRAMS THAT ENCOURAGE USE OF RESOURCES

- Faculty Liaisons
- Course LibGuides
- Partnerships With Faculty & Academic Departments
  - Banned Books
  - Mural Project
  - Video Project
  - Luau
- Table Tents
- Extended Hours During Finals and Midterms
PROMOTE USER EVENTS / PROGRAMS THAT ENCOURAGE USE OF RESOURCES

- Library Liaisons
- Subject LibGuides
- Course LibGuides
- Library Instruction
PROMOTE USER EVENTS / PROGRAMS THAT ENCOURAGE USE OF RESOURCES

EQUAL PAY DAY 2016

Featuring insights from local entrepreneurs & hiring managers

Sponsored by the Student Alliance for Gender Equity, the Office of Student Diversity and Axe Library.

GAB student partners during extended hours programming
LESSONS WE LEARNED

- Change the way you engage users. Different strategies for different groups.
- Don’t Be Afraid to Experiment
- It will be a constant challenge to continuously create new relationships - But the product of user created content is worth the effort
- Departments on campus will find out and approach you about new opportunities
FURTHER READINGS


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PDF of handout available at this link
http://libguides.pittstate.edu/pope/home