Issues and Challenges
facing
Academic/Research Libraries
in
the United States

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Outline

➤ Common themes in mission statements of academic libraries

➤ Issues identified by ACRL (Association of College and Research Libraries) for 21st century academic libraries

➤ Focus of this presentation

  • Informational resources
  • Library facilities

Common Themes in Mission Statements

➤ Support the University's mission

➤ Support teaching, learning, and research

➤ Build information resources in all formats

➤ Assist students in becoming information literate, critical thinkers

➤ Provide a physical environment conducive to study, interaction, and social and intellectual exchange

Issues identified by ACRL
(http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlissues/)

➢ 2002

- Recruitment, education, and retention of librarians
- Role of library in academic library enterprise
- Impact on information technology
- Creation, control, and preservation of digital resources
- Chaos in scholarly communitcation
- Support of new users
- Higher education funding

Issues – Continued

➤ 2007 – selective (http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/publications/whitepapers/Environmental_Scan_2.pdf)

- Broader collaboration between academic, public, special and school librarians
- Library facilities and services and integration of research, teaching and learning programs
- New approaches to the design and delivery of core library services
- Shift from the creation and management of on-site collections to the design and delivery of library services
- Technology tools provide opportunities for the design and delivery of library services and increasing demands on staff

Issues - Continued

➢ 2009 Strategic Thinking Guide – selective
http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/issues/future/acrlguide09.pdf

- 3 Drivers and Strategic Questions for Libraries
  - Economy and Higher Education
    - Aging academic workforce, new organizational structures, digital infrastructure, library as the primary informal learning space, etc.
  - Students
    - Serving multiple-generation student population
  - Technology
    - Competing needs for high capacity network infrastructure to deliver digital services, collection development and access, dynamic library websites, etc.

Information Resources

- Curriculum and research support
  - Ownership vs. providing access
- Format Trends
  - Printed books and journals
  - E-books and e-journals
  - Media resources
    - CD/DVD and streaming
  - Digitization projects
    - commercial, national, state & local
  - Web resources

Information Resources
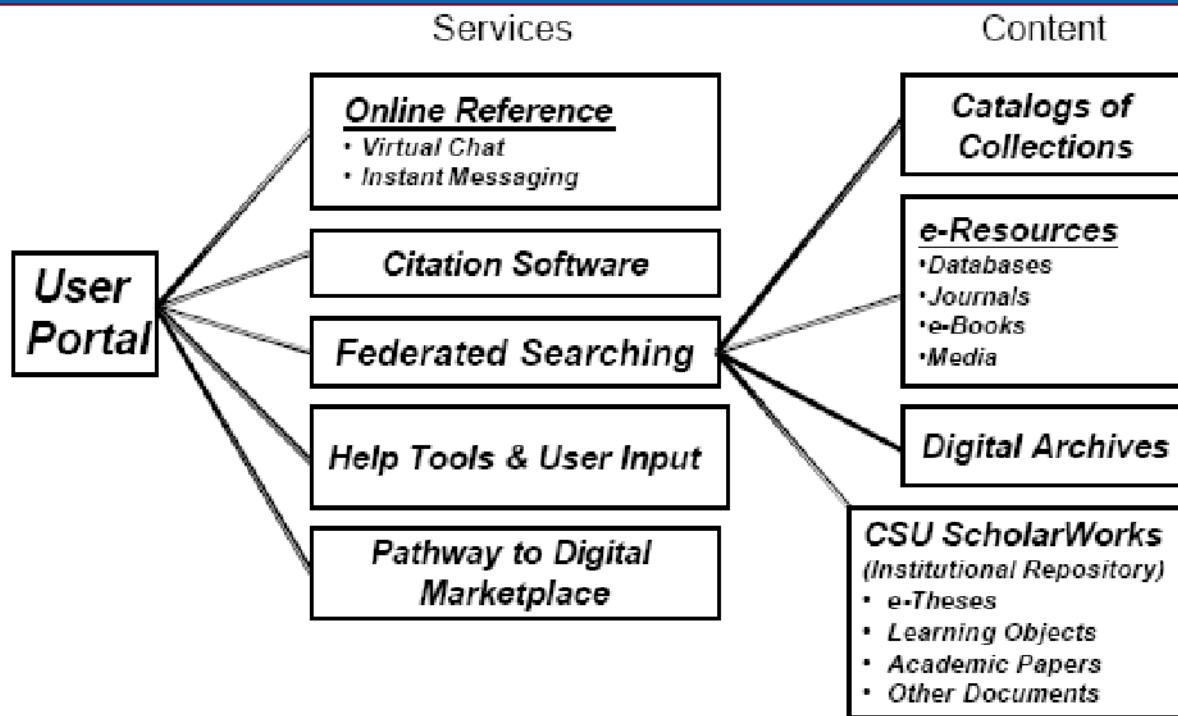
➢ Agenda for Library Administrators

  • Providing uninterrupted access to resources

    • Resource sharing through collaboration

    • High speed network infrastructure

    • Secured user identification and authentication

  • Considering options for future sustainability of library's past and present investments

    • Perpetual access for the purchased resources

    • Archiving of resources

Information Resources Continued

➢ Agenda for Library Administrators

- Cost effectiveness of providing access to contents
  - Educating faculty on developing library resources
  - Building assessment into planning by reviewing use data
- Strategies in working with vendors and consortia
  - ICOLC (International Coalition of Library Consortia)
    - Contract negotiations
    - Pricing structures
  - Case study:
    - California State University Libraries Virtual Library

CSU Virtual Library

Services

Content

Online Reference
- Virtual Chat
- Instant Messaging

User Portal

Citation Software

Federated Searching

Help Tools & User Input

Pathway to Digital Marketplace

Catalogs of Collections

e-Resources
- Databases
- Journals
- e-Books
- Media

Digital Archives

CSU ScholarWorks
(Institutional Repository)
- e-Theses
- Learning Objects
- Academic Papers
- Other Documents

COLD
November 16, 2007

Approved by the CSU Council of Library Directors: November 2007
Revised: April 15, 2008

Library Facilities

- Traditional library building function
  - Collection storage and retrieval
  - Reference consultation and bibliographic instruction
  - Study space
- Transformation of library building use
  - Continue to serve the above listed function
  - Remote access reference services
    - Ask Librarians, chat, blogs
  - Collaborative learning space, computer access, student advising, and technology assistance

Library Facilities

➢ Features to consider in new/renovated space

- Collection storage space (open or closed)
- User space
  - Individual, group studies, instruction/consultation
  - Computer commons
  - Production and presentation space
  - Social space, coffee shop and/or café
- Technology infrastructure

Library Facilities

➤ ## Changing Perceptions of Libraries

- Library "as a place to learn, as a place to read, as a place to make information freely available, as a place to support literacy, as a place to provide research support, as a place to free computer/internet access.." (College Students' Perceptions of Libraries and Information Resources, OCLC, 2005)

- "… physical facilities to foster individual and collaborative teaching and learning and to encourage the exchange of ideas."(CSUEB mission statement)

- "…a physical environment designed to maximize learning, nurture the production and distribution of new knowledge, and stimulate and sustain innovation." (UNR Knowledge Center)

Lied Library Reference Desk

ASRS Window

Retrieving a Bin

Group
Study
Room

Group study rooms
with sidelights

Faculty Research Support Space

Faculty Research Support Space 2

Providing Outdoor Ambiance

Future of Academic Libraries

➢ Despite economic downturn….

It is up to us to make our agenda be heard and continue to build a bright positive future for our students and faculty

Thank you

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Lied Library at UNLV Panoramic view