Scholarly Commons Leadership Team

Background

Over the past two years, the University Library has engaged stake-holders from across the campus in a discussion of how best to meet the evolving needs of graduate students and faculty for access both to scholarly information and to the expertise of librarians and other information professionals who can support their exploration of new models for teaching, learning, and research in the contemporary academic environment. Based on these discussions, the Scholarly Commons is envisioned as a Library service point aimed at supporting the information needs of graduate students and faculty from across the University as they conduct in-depth research and scholarly inquiry.

The Scholarly Commons will be both a model for service to scholars, and a library facility. As a service model, it will highlight opportunities for substantive collaboration between classroom faculty members, researchers, graduate students, academic librarians, information technology professionals, and others. As a facility, it will be a space available for use by faculty and students in all disciplines that makes available an array of tools and professional expertise supporting this collaborative approach to the integration of information resources in, and the application of information technology to, research and teaching. The Scholarly Commons will provide a focal point for many services already available in one or more Library units, but also a space in which new approaches to services to scholars may be adopted. While service to scholars will continue to be delivered through the network of Library and information technology units available on campus, the Scholarly Commons will provide an opportunity to enhance those services, as well as an opportunity to construct a framework for collaborative approaches to supporting the needs of scholars pursuing specific research and teaching projects.

Project teams that may be brought together in the Commons may include, as appropriate: 1) classroom faculty; 2) public service librarians; 3) subject specialist librarians; 4) Library information technology specialists; and 5) campus information technology specialists (e.g., ATLAS, CITES staff). The Scholarly Commons represents a service model based on a core commitment to collaboration in support of research and teaching – collaboration between disciplinary experts and information professionals, between librarians and information technology specialists, and among the many librarians and academic professionals housed in the University Library.

Charge

The Scholarly Commons Leadership Team will articulate the service program for the Scholarly Commons.

The Scholarly Commons Leadership Team will collaborate with key stakeholders in the Library and across campus to launch this new service model in 200 Main Library by August 16, 2008.

In order to meet these goals, the Scholarly Commons Leadership Team will:

1. review existing models for “scholarly service programs” in academic and research libraries;

2. collaborate with Library subject specialists and other professionals to identify a range of services that might be delivered through the Scholarly Commons, with an eye toward short-term and long-term service goals;

3. collaborate with Library IT to identify information technology needs for the Scholarly Commons and to establish a model for ongoing acquisition, maintenance, support, and renewal of hardware and software to be provided as part of Scholarly Commons service programs;
4. identify an initial set of Library services to be coordinated and/or delivered through the Scholarly Commons;

5. articulate the connections between Scholarly Commons service programs and existing Library service programs aimed at graduate students and faculty in collaboration with established program leads in areas including Central Reference Services and Scholarly Communications;

6. identify Scholarly Commons partner programs across campus that may coordinate and/or deliver services through the Scholarly Commons;

7. articulate the contributions that Scholarly Commons service programs may make to relevant unit, program, departmental, college, or campus strategic initiatives;

8. recommend a model for ongoing collaboration among Library and campus stakeholders to support the ongoing development, implementation, and assessment of Scholarly Commons service programs; and

9. recommend a model for the ongoing study of the service needs and preferences of graduate students and faculty and the assessment of the degree to which those needs are met by the Scholarly Commons and related service programs.

Membership

Scott Walter, Associate University Librarian for Services (Team Leader)
Daniel Jacobsohn, Director, Customer Support Services, CITES
Deanna Raineri, Associate Dean, ATLAS
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Karen Hogenboom, Government Documents Library
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Approved via email by Library Executive Committee 1/21/2008