Scholar Services at the University Library: The Scholarly Commons Report
Background

- Learning Commons (2006)
- University Library Strategic Plan (2006)
- Scholarly Commons Leadership Team (2008)
The Scholarly Commons Proposal

“The Scholarly Commons is envisioned both as a physical facility and as . . . [a] service environment aimed at the changing needs of graduate students and faculty. Pursuing this proposal will allow us to more effectively bring together Library subject specialists and other professionals in support of scholarly activity, and provide an opportunity to develop collaborative relationships with campus units including CITES, ATLAS, the Graduate College, and I³ . . . . The Scholarly Commons will serve as a key support mechanism for the development of cyber-infrastructure in the humanities and social sciences, as well as a . . . [hub for] support of e-learning and e-science.”
Charge (Selected)

The Scholarly Commons Leadership Team will:

- review existing models for “scholarly service programs” in academic and research libraries;
- identify Scholarly Commons partner programs across campus that may coordinate and/or deliver services through the Scholarly Commons;
- identify an initial set of services to be coordinated and/or delivered through the Scholarly Commons;
- recommend a model for ongoing collaboration among Library and campus stakeholders to support the ongoing design, development, and assessment of Scholarly Commons service programs.
Stage One:

Review existing models for “scholarly service programs” in academic and research libraries
Environmental Factors

- the successful creation of the Illinois Digital Environment for Access to Learning and Scholarship (IDEALS);
- the successful establishment of a scholarly communications service program;
- a successful data services pilot program;
- the establishment of the Illinois Informatics Institute;
- increased attention to multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary research and teaching;
- increased pressure to leverage existing information technology and human resources more effectively across campus; and
- the release of the Association of Research Libraries’ 2007 report and recommendations for enhancing library support for e-science.
Scholar Services in Academic Libraries

- Support for scholars as they “acquire, create, manage, and use knowledge resources” (Univ. of Minnesota, 2006)
- Services designed to bring together “librarian expertise, campus partnerships, and . . . information technology tools” (Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2007)
- Provision of “expertise and tools to facilitate the creation and use of digital scholarship to enhance, research, teaching, and learning” (Univ. of Kansas, 2008)

Pennsylvania State University – Office of Digital Scholarly Publishing
http://www.libraries.psu.edu/odsp/

North Carolina State University – GIS Data Services
http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/gis/
“Scholar services are understood to encompass traditional Library services for faculty, including research consultation, instructional design, and identification of information resources, as well as emergent service needs, including scholarly communications education, data services, digitization and metadata services, scholarly publishing services, and personal research data management.”

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Scholar Services in Academic Libraries

Scholar service programs in academic libraries should:

- evolve in response to broader changes to teaching, learning, and research in higher education, as well as to changes in the scholarly communications environment;
- be designed to be fluid, with to promote agility among their principal players; and
- be designed and delivered in collaboration with campus partners in order to coordinate or contribute to campus-wide approaches to scholar support.
Lessons Learned

- Scholar Service programs:
  - focus on facilitating communication and cooperation among campus partners;
  - bring together traditional and emergent models for faculty support;
  - blur the traditional, functional lines maintained in between “services,” “collections,” and “information technology,” and require new thinking about library organization;
  - provide a physical and digital “infrastructure that supports collaboration” among campus researchers;
  - build on existing faculty development services and programs;
  - build on existing campus strengths or concerns;
  - facilitate interdisciplinary inquiry and innovative approaches to teaching and research; and
  - provide physical and virtual spaces in which users may explore new technologies and receive support for their adoption.
Scholar Services and the Scholarly Commons

“The Scholarly Commons is a term used to refer to a specific set of scholar services offered through the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Library in collaboration with campus partners, including CITES, the Graduate College, the Illinois Informatics Institute, ATLAS, and others. The scholar service programs delivered as part of the Scholarly Commons are referred to in this report as core service programs.”
Core Service Programs

“By ‘core service program,’ . . . [we refer] to programs to be coordinated through the Scholarly Commons for which there are shared contributions among campus partners for program support, and for which a commitment to the following basic service activities is made:

– basic consulting services made available to all Illinois faculty, staff, and students at a Library service point;
– advanced consulting services made available to all Illinois faculty, staff, and students at a campus service point;
– provision of relevant instructional programming, e.g., workshops; and
– provision of access to relevant information technology tools, including hardware and software, to users of the Scholarly Commons.”
Stage Two:

Identify Scholarly Commons partner programs across campus that may coordinate and/or deliver services through the Scholarly Commons
Potential Partner Programs

- Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Research
- University Counsel
- University of Illinois Press
- Center for Teaching Excellence
- CITES
- NCSA
- Graduate College
- Illinois Informatics Institute
- Center for Translation Studies
- GSLIS
- Extension
- ATLAS
- Survey Research Lab
- EDMEDIA
- Cultural Organizations
Stage Three:

Identify an initial set of services to be coordinated and/or delivered through the Scholarly Commons
Review of Scholar Services

- Traditional Scholar Services in the Library
  - Research Consultation
  - Information Literacy Instruction

- Emergent Scholar Services in the Library
  - Scholarly Communications Education
  - Digital Content Creation
  - Metadata Services
  - Data Curation

- Scholar Services Across Campus
  - Data Services
  - Instructional Development
  - Survey Research Consultation
  - Intellectual Property Management
Scholar Service Needs

- Support for E-Science & E-Scholarship
- Support for Digital Humanities
- Support for Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Support for the Creation, Use, and Curation of Digital Visual Resources
- IT Sandbox
- Community Building
  - Virtual
  - Physical
Recommended Core Service Program

Scholarly Communications Services
- Copyright and Author Rights Education
- Public Access Compliance
- Institutional Repository Services
- Digital Publishing Services
- Electronic Theses & Dissertations
- Public Access to Research

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http://www.plos.org/downloads/cartoons.html

Partner Programs:
Library, CITES, Graduate College, OVCR, UI Press, DBS
Recommended Core Service Program

Data Services

- Social Science Data Services
- GIS Data Services
- Data Curation
- Research Data Management Services

Partner Programs: Library, CITES, ATLAS, Extension, GSLIS
Recommended Core Service Program

- Digitization Services
  - Digital Content Creation
  - Digital Content Description and Curation
  - Digital Text Analysis and Use
  - Digital Images and Visual Resource Analysis and Use

http://www.opencontentalliance.org/
http://illinoisharvest.grainger.uiuc.edu/

Partner Programs:
Library, CITES, I^3, FAA, GSLIS
Stage Four:
Recommend a model for ongoing collaboration among Library and campus stakeholders to support the ongoing design, development, and assessment of Scholarly Commons service programs
First Steps, Next Steps

- Mission, Vision, Values
- Organization
  - Scholarly Commons Coordinator
  - Scholarly Commons Council
  - Virtual Organization
- Space
  - Virtual
  - Physical
- Service Lifecycle
Recommendations

1. A standing committee similar to the Learning Commons Council should be established to provide ongoing leadership for services to be provided through the Scholarly Commons; this committee should include representatives of campus partners and liaisons with core service programs;

2. A “Scholarly Commons Coordinator” position should be established to provide leadership for the Scholarly Commons, and for the broader discussion of Scholar Services in the University Library;

3. Current University Library efforts in the areas of scholarly communications, data services, and digitization services should be reviewed in light of the recommendation that they serve as the initial focus for Scholarly Commons service programming;
Recommendations

4. Discussions of Scholarly Commons staffing should be coordinated with discussion of the related NSM proposals to create a “Scholarly Communications Services and Support Unit” and to establish a clearer approach to the “Digital Content Lifecycle,” as well as with ongoing discussion of creating a “GIS” position within the University Library;

5. The Library should make it a priority, as part of broader space and service planning discussions, to identify space within the Main Library for the consulting and information technology programs outlined in this report;
Recommendations

6. Under the leadership of the Scholarly Commons Coordinator, a virtual presence for the Scholarly Commons should be developed that highlights existing Scholarly Commons programs, as well as related resources currently available on campus in areas of interest, e.g., GIS services, e-science and e-scholarship, digital humanities; and

7. Under the leadership of the Scholarly Commons Coordinator, a discussion should be initiated regarding an ongoing research effort looking at the needs of students and faculty for scholar services that could serve to guide the ongoing development of the Scholarly Commons and inform review of the “service lifecycle.”
Scholarly Commons Leadership Team

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Questions