Inspired by Real Events: Libraries Transforming Students into Engaged Citizens

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INSPIRED BY REAL EVENTS

Libraries Transforming Students into Engaged Citizens
HELLO!

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We need a balance in the daily and the visionary, the local and the global, the practices and the theories, the ideal and the possible.

Heidi Jacobs
What is your role?
★ Faculty
★ Service Learning/Community Engagement Staff
★ Librarian
★ Community Member
★ Other

Why did you decide to attend this presentation?
★ Want to explore collaborations
★ Want to know what the library can do
★ Other
Do service learning students really need help from a librarian?
Why should you partner with the library?

Do students in service learning courses:
- Need to know more about the communities they’re serving?
- Need to conduct research with the community?
- Bring in other primary or secondary resources for their reflections?
- Need to write a research paper on an element of their service experience?
- Need to become engaged citizens?
What do librarians and the library bring to the table?

- Librarians offer expertise and support for research using a wide range of resources.
- Community engagement activities are aligned with library values “to fulfill [libraries’] civic mission in the information age.”
- Libraries are uniquely positioned to contribute and collaborate with others on campus and in the community.
**Developing Partnerships between Faculty and Service Learning Directors**

- Focus on partnership examples and success stories
- Faculty fellows/training for faculty new to service learning
- Membership on committee to review syllabi
- Learn more about service learning opportunities/areas where partnerships are focused
- Investigate need for storing, organizing, and/or providing access to data, reports, and other information
Partnership
University of Northern Iowa

Librarian Anne Marie Gruber

Discuss research experience and misconceptions

Faculty work in small groups

3-day workshop

Community partners co-create projects

10 faculty

Service-Learning Institute
Librarians *Alex Hodges* and *Olivia Ivey*  

**Faculty Fellows Institute**  
- Intercultural communication training  
- Instructional design support  
- Community site visits  
- Information literacy integration work  
- Cohort engagement
Partnership--SCU
Sociology 30: Self, Community and Society
Librarian worked with class on finding & using data

**Session 1**
- Imagining data sources
- Navigating census and school data

**Session 2**
- Critiquing data and sources
- Navigating census and school data

**Session 3**
- Conditions/needs (health, transportation, employment)
- Community needs (people, places, characteristics)
For many academic librarians, there has been a focus on teaching students how to engage academic sources as the central material in their research.

Students, and faculty, engaged in service learning have different information needs that require them to integrate community information into their research.

Building a bridge between these different information environments requires deliberate and thoughtful instruction.
BRIDGE BUILDING
THE ENTIRE SERVICE INFORMATION ECOSYSTEM

Traditional library materials, accessed via traditional searching methods, prepared students to approach this issue with broad understanding in an theoretical and abstract way.

Utilizing community information, accessed via more novel searching methods, augmented students’ broad understanding with nuance and a local focus.
AN EXAMPLE FROM MISSOULA, MONTANA

The result was an amazing community-based project!
A NEW MODEL FOR LIBRARY RESEARCH

Difference is Strength!

Academic and community information environments have different characteristics and neither is “better” than the other.

Integrate

Academic and community information environments are accessed utilizing different search strategies and both are critical skill sets.

Do as I say AND as I do

Integrating and citing community information alongside academic information requires instructional modeling, sharing examples and rewarding students for work done well.
A NEW PATH
Student Mini Grants as a New Path for Engagement

Grants of up to $1000 are awarded to students who present proposals for projects that demonstrate innovation, collaboration and that strive to make a real-life impact.

Projects must strengthen community partnerships, enhance global scholarship, and/or advocate for diversity and inclusion.
A student org offers tutoring services to the Latino community in Ann Arbor. They needed help choosing and purchasing resources for their tutors in order to train more effectively.

An Art and Design Student worked with a Detroit YWCA to offer a collaborative art project with women survivors of domestic abuse.

An entrepreneurial student group was working to develop a system for community members who needed transportation to and from the grocery store.
A New Path to Working with Students

Students are paired with librarian mentors. They meet at least three times throughout the semester for check ins.

Librarians work with students on lit reviews, tech support, video creation, statistical analysis, etc. They help students with making connections within the Library and the greater University community.
The library begins a program with a community engagement focus.

This leads to conversations with the University’s Ginsberg Center for Community Service and Learning.

An opportunity is identified to pair a library mini course with a local organization!
ARTICULATION
SELF-ASSESSMENT RUBRICS

**Institution-Wide**
Self-assessment rubric for the institutionalization of service-learning in higher education.

**Academic Departments**
Creating community-engaged departments: Self-assessment rubric for the institutionalization of community engagement in academic departments.

**Libraries**
Self-assessment rubric for development of service learning programs in academic libraries.
USE THE RUBRIC TO FIND POINTS OF ARTICULATION

**Space**
- Events and Exhibits
- Meeting Rooms
- Space for Quiet Reflection

**Information Access**
- Access to resources for community members
- Guides to community engagement resources & bibliographies for grant applications
- Preservation of community engagement artifacts

**Contacts**
- Community Engagement Librarians
- Liaison Librarians
- Library Leaders
QUESTIONS TO START CONVERSATIONS AT YOUR LIBRARY

What local and community knowledge should be part of our library collections?

How can the library actively partner with our communities to highlight the value they bring to our students?

How can we teach students to use local and community information, and to identify its legitimate research value in their work?
Colloquium on Libraries & Service Learning

Date: August 9-10, 2018 at American University in Washington, DC

Theme: Critically engaged librarianship: Exploring service learning and community involvement

Website: tinyurl.com/CLSL2018

Twitter: @CLSL2018
The listserv provides an opportunity for participants to engage in the sharing of research, ideas, perspectives, and best practices in library engagement with service learning.

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We welcome your questions!
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Examples: