

WELCOME

**What Do We Want to Know?
Articulating a Research
Agenda for the Value of
Academic Libraries**

WELCOME

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Overview of VAL Initiative

- May 2009 – ACRL Board Director-at-Large John Lehner’s Briefing Paper: “Return on Investment in Academic Libraries Research”
- July 2009 – Board Invitational “Value of Academic Libraries Research” Meeting
- Fall 2009 – RFP issued for comprehensive literature analysis
- September 2010 – *The Value of Academic Libraries: A Comprehensive Research Review and Report* released
- April 2011 – Plan for Excellence adopted
- May 2011 – Board charges Value of Academic Libraries Committee
- October 2011 – IMLS Collaborative Planning Grant awarded
- November/December 2011– IMLS Funded Summits
- January 2012 – Update forum at Midwinter; Research Agenda Summit proposed
- June 2012 – *Connect, Collaborate, and Communicate: A Report from the Value of Academic Libraries Summits* released; **Invitational Research Agenda Meeting**; Update forum at Annual
- September 2012 – IMLS National Leadership Demonstration Grant “Assessment in Action: Academic Libraries and Student Success” awarded

The Best Research...

- Has an impact on individuals and populations
- Leads to decision-making, action-taking, practical tools/skills for library users
- Includes different sub-populations
- Addresses current gaps in research
- Uses rigorous research methods
- States limitations clearly and responsibly

Invitational Research Agenda Meeting

- Pre-Meeting to ALA Annual Conference in 2012
- 45 Participants (Librarians, Researchers, LIS Faculty, IMLS Staff, ACRL Staff)
- Purpose:
 - Identify Research Questions
 - Suggest Research Designs and Methodologies
 - Prioritize Research Needs
- Outcome: Draft Statement

VAL Report Research Agenda:

The Library contributes to ...

- student enrollment
- student retention and graduation rates
- student success
- student achievement
- student learning
- student experience



- faculty research productivity
- faculty grant proposals and funding
- faculty teaching
- overall institutional reputation or prestige

Goal: **FOCUSED** Research Agenda:

The Library contributes to ...

- student enrollment
- **student retention**
and graduation rates
- **student success**
- student achievement
- **student learning**
- student experience



- faculty research productivity
- faculty grant proposals and funding
- faculty teaching
- overall institutional reputation or prestige

Creating a Research Agenda

- Determine profession's major needs
- Develop a consensus on the parameters & specifics of “academic library value/impact”
- Identify key authors in the field
- Develop a literature review
- Describe strengths/weaknesses of existing research
- Identify key research questions
- Determine how they can be answered
- Identify issues related to study design, methodology, potential data sources, study sites
- Identify venues for dissemination of future research, including journals & conferences
- Recruit partners/collaborators for future research
- Secure funding
- Determine priorities for research
- Determine how to involve stakeholders in identifying & using research findings
- Draft an agenda, solicit comments, revise agenda

Value of Academic Libraries Report

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Connect, Collaborate, and Communicate:

A Report from the Value of Academic Libraries Summits

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June 2012 Research Agenda Meeting Kicked-Off

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The Future

- Determine profession's major needs
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Assessment in Action Grant

- Professional development for librarians delivered via a blended learning environment and a peer-to-peer network.
- Librarians will lead campus teams in developing and implementing an action learning project examining the impact of the library on student success.
- Ultimately, grant will document a variety of approaches to assessing library impact on student learning.
- Test and further develop the research agenda.

Questions?
Comments?
Thank You!