

Transcript of Online Chat

Anna Svensson: Are any digitalization projects not including Open Access justifiable?

Vickie Doll: Are we competing among ourselves with forum, conferences, and workshop and should there be a more unified leadership group to lead the next steps? How will the outcomes from forms and workshops be disseminated to let not only the international area studies librarians/specialists know and also to bring to the attention of university administrators? Any thought to include more or all interested members to participate in a broader discussion on these important issues in the future?

ehhawley: A key part of building those transecting aspects of area studies that get beyond just faculty with specific area interests or language skills would involve alignment of the partnerships and collaborations of area studies (across US and international institutions) with the strategic goals of the home institution. Do area studies personnel have a place at the table when central administration or college units talk about internationalization of curriculum?

OSU-EES: If we want to follow up conversations that have started at this Workshop - to what online forum or list can we subscribe?

Guest 2: Appreciate ehhawley asking if "area studies personnel" have a place at the table... I think the "commitment to budget cutting" on the part of the administration has caused cavalier attitudes as to what is considered essential.

Jennifer Schaffner: At the risk of stating the obvious, I am struck today by the several directors/AULs calling for area studies librarians to "stop whining." Not optional, rather required? The entry point for librarians is that global interdisciplinary research and scholarship. I am chastened and delighted to see the support at the very top for renewing strategy and alignment, both on our campus and across institutions.

Anna Svensson: The question about the additional expertise we might need, like digitalization, I'd like to add that even working in teams with other specialist, there's also the question of time. We need to consider what we should stop doing in order to have time for new necessary tasks.

Guest 2: Thank you Jennifer Schaffner, Librarians need to be more encouraged and supported to articulate and document their value with an attitude of inviting folks into new collaborations with the understanding that Deborah Jakubs stated regarding how AREA STUDIES Librarians were "the first interdisciplinarians".

ehhawley: Less insular, yes. Part of the power structure -- serving on curricular reform committees, even better. We need each level.

Jennifer Schaffner: terrific discussion in the room. thank you.

Ronald Hafft: I will be closing this chat in a couple of minutes -- after everyone has entered comments.

Triveni Kuchi: Anna exactly captured my thoughts: "what we should stop doing in order to have time for new necessary tasks." - to be able to reflect, partner and collaborate...all time intensive engaging activities...setting priorities and getting the support, backup and incentives to follow through would be sorely needed in order to "change".

Guest 2: Once I had to write a review of a librarian going up for tenure at the University of Oregon, I recall they had an arrangement where there was a library priority that librarians could devote a certain percentage of their time towards that initiative (assuming that other work actually got done). I did wonder if such a project would not be useful for encouraging librarians to develop and connect their work to an initiative. In this way, priorities are more likely to be developed allowing opportunities to grow and develop and contribute to initiatives. I do think there is much competition and top down thinking that would need to be transformed in library culture to create such models. It demands a new "co-creative" approach in management that is much more focused on growth.

Guest 3: Bobana Badisang: From Botswana Libraries Consortium's perspective, EIFL's OA work in enabling A2K in developing and transitioning countries is significant. I however feel some national repositories are lagging behind in skills and competencies (similar to the Liberian experience) for uploading current research digitally. What collaboration do other Area Studies librarians among us have with EIFL to bridge the gap?

Ronald Hafft: It appears comments/questions have stopped; there will be another (final) chat session open after the last presentations in about one hour.