

THE 21st CENTURY LIBRARY IN ACADEMIC MEDICAL CENTERS

CHARTING THE FUTURE EXERCISE

November 9, 2002

Research in the Academic Medical Center

Introduction

Although medical schools have divergent missions, (primary care, community-based, research) the conduct of research is a part of every school's activities. The growth in importance of clinical research, population based medicine and issues of translational practice as well as basic science research give academic health sciences libraries a wide range of possibilities for evolving supportive programs in these areas.

The library conducts its own research, can be a partner in research efforts of its faculty and can provide resources, including training opportunities for its institution.

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Core Mission Direction Today*	Future Mission Direction -- Research	Comments	Additional Goals
<p>A. Build the institution's primary knowledge repository with a focus on digital library collections. Work with content owners to provide licensed access for academic medical center (AMC) employees.</p> <p><i>Underlying assumptions:</i> Building on the library's expertise in the organization and access to traditional collections, focus on building digital collections and digital curricula. Users prefer digital and the format brings the evidence to the desktop 24/7. Print will become secondary for most students and employees. Big issues include the cost of licensed digital information and permanence of the digital archive.</p>	<p>Library assumes responsibility for licensing resources essential for work in the research lab, e.g., bioinformatics toolkits, proprietary systems such as Celera.</p> <p>The Library manages a new e-journal for the AMC, including a "pre-print" service, and repository of working drafts.</p>		

Additional Goals	Comments	Additional Goals	Comments
	<p>The Library assumes responsibility for the institution's research data centers, including servers, networks, computer security, data storage and integrity, disaster recovery, UPS, etc.</p> <p>Research lab personnel look to the library to make data sets of research available to the world. The library works with an international group of scientists to identify the appropriate metadata tags and networking options.</p> <p>Web sites are developed that permit ease of migration from the online bench tools to published literature, community networks, methods manuals, and analytical tools.</p>	<p>B. Develop the technological infrastructure to support access to and delivery of digital information.</p> <p><i>Underlying assumptions:</i> Includes current automation efforts such as library management system, library web site, bibliographic retrieval systems, image management systems, education management systems, Web collaborations, shared cataloging systems (e.g., OCLC). May include responsibility for the institutional web site, drug information systems or institutional e-formulary, historical archives systems, etc.</p>	
	<p>Bioinformaticists are justified as new FTE for the library and recruited to provide expert literature research, Web toolkits, and training and consultation for AMC students and employees.</p>	<p>C. Educate employees and future health professionals in essential skills to become life-long learners.</p> <p><i>Underlying Assumption:</i> Educating students and employees in wise use of computer technology for life-long learning, literature research, and strategies for practicing evidence-based healthcare are core parts of the library's mission.</p>	

Additional Goals	Comments		Additional Goals
	<p>Guest lectures by visiting scientists are taped for videostreaming through a system that brings together searchable content of the talks with other types of content.</p> <p>Access to resources is increasingly seamless with interoperational links between various kinds of resources, regardless of their host location due to the Library's consulting and lobbying efforts.</p> <p>A team of consultants in the library assist faculty in the development of grants looking specifically at information management areas.</p>	<p>D. Deliver scholarly information and knowledge – the library as gateway to print and digital knowledge.</p> <p><i>Underlying assumption:</i> Traditional and digital libraries serve as gateways to the knowledge required for research advances and improved clinical care. Library staff provides guidance and tools to leverage the most authoritative information and knowledge. The AMC library serves as a center of excellence for expert literature retrieval services, user training, and consultation.</p>	
	<p>The library's records management team and research systems staff work to facilitate retention and access to the long-term archival record of research projects. Policies and procedures are in place to assure that data continues to be appropriately maintained by the institution even if a faculty member leaves.</p>	<p>E. Preserve an historical record of scholarly information to serve future generations.</p> <p><i>Underlying Assumption:</i> Access to the continuum of knowledge of disciplines and institutions and the discovery tools and metadata supporting this knowledge resource will continue to be a key ingredient to future scholarship and institutional history.</p>	
		<p>F. Create an environment conducive to stimulating intellectual pursuits, encouraging</p>	

<p>collaborative scholarly endeavors, and supporting personal reflection.</p> <p><i>Underlying Assumptions:</i> Centralized facilities which provide space for collaboration, quiet individual study and contemplation away from clinics and labs will remain highly important for research, education, and scholarship. The AMC library serves as an efficient institutional tool to provide this important shared, neutral space available to all employees and students.</p>		
<p>G. Serve the wider communities in the state and region.</p> <p><i>Underlying Assumption:</i> Supporting health information needs of the state or region through resource sharing (ILL), contributed e-cataloging records, and shared expertise through publications and collaborations will continue to be a hallmark of academic medical center libraries.</p>	<p>Comments</p>	<p>Additional Goals</p>

*Underlying Assumptions developed by University of Maryland Health Sciences Library