Peer Assessment

SAGE: Strategic Assessment, Guidance, and Engagement

Jill Chisnell, Terrence Chuisano, Julia Corrin, Rikk Mulligan, Ana Van Gulick, Ole Villadsen
This work began with a question: who do we hire?

We started as a small, informal group…

- Jill Chisnell, liaison to Design, Film, IDeATe
- Terrence Chiusano, technical services
- Julia Corrin, university archives
- Rikk Mulligan, digital scholarship
- Ana Van Gulick, liaison to Psychology and BrainHub
- Ole Villadsen, liaison CyLab, INI, and ISR

This work began with a question is a library faculty meeting: who do we need to hire?

Several of us volunteered to do a peer assessment, an informal environmental analysis to see what was happening in other libraries.

We are a group of faculty and professional staff, primarily liaison librarians.
Where do we start?

CMU Strategic Plan 2025: Creating a 21st Century Library

- Develop information specialists as partners in research, teaching, and learning.
- Collaborate with peer institutions to provide coordinated access to a global collection of information resources.
- Steward the evolving scholarly record, and champion new forms of scholarly communication.
- Be recognized globally as a leader in the development of the scholarly information ecosystem.

Dean Webster suggested we start with the CMU Strategic Plan. This had been the basis for a series of hires last summer and this past fall to build a cohort of new information specialists.
We started with the high-level and aspirational. You might see that we framed our analysis using recent work that explored changes and trends in libraries and the technology that supports the mission of libraries. We also looked at the strategic plans and yearly reports of a few universities who have been undergoing transition from more traditional university libraries to modern research libraries.

Aspirational. It’s already 2017 how do we get there?

Framing our analysis:
- MIT Report on the Future of the Library (October 2016)
- New Media Consortium Horizon Report: 2017 Library Edition
- Strategic Plans of various university libraries
  - Berkeley
  - Duke
  - Stanford
  - Vanderbilt
MIT: Most Aspirational

The MIT Report is the result of a year-long 30-person taskforce that included faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, and staff from across the institution, but convened and led by the Director of the Libraries, Chris Bourg. This report offers a “bold new vision of the library as an open global platform” that is part of a fundamental transformation—from libraries where knowledge is Accessed individually through analog and digital means into ones where creation and access to knowledge are dynamically networked.”

Methodology

- Large Task Force (30+)
- Year-long process
- Involves reimagining the library, university, and scholarly community
- Series of 10 recommendations, very high level

“Community and relationships, discovery and use, stewardship and sustainability, and research and development are the pillars that undergird the open global platform we seek to build.”
The New Media Consortium’s Horizon Report is no less aspirational, but it does offer a more immediate assessment of the current trends in research libraries, the challenges we face, and how technology is likely to change library services, operations, and strategies. A fairly comprehensive report, this offers a model for how we can think about what we discovered in our peer analysis and what we might consider for the short, mid, and long-term for our own library.

NMC Horizon Report: 2017 Library Edition

Methodology

- Six Key Trends:
  - short-term, mid-term, long-term
- Six Significant challenges:
  - soluble, difficult, wicked
- Six Developments in Technology:
  - Time-to-Adoption:
    - 1 year or less, 2-3 years, 4-5 years
The Strategic Zeitgeist

- University of California: Berkeley
  - Access to Resources
  - Develop emerging areas of scholarship
  - Grow as a learning organization
  - Build community, cultivate relationships

“While the fundamental purpose of the University Library has not changed, the portfolio of strategies for fulfilling that purpose must evolve to meet new circumstances and opportunities.”

- Jeffrey MacKie-Mason, University Librarian

The other Strategic visions and reports Berkeley, but also Dartmouth, Duke, and MIT's yearly reports offer more details at times but also underscore how much the local context and community must shape any plans for the library.
Dean Webster suggested a set of peers to survey. Our remit was to consider a select set whose populations, ranking, and ethos are similar to our own. We started with the U-10 group, the private non-ivies, of which there are now 12 or so. A few of us also to additional examples as we developed our themes, but by and large we were not looking to Harvard or Yale, for example.

Our Process: Who do we look at?

- University Libraries of the U-10+
  - Case Western Reserve University
  - University of Chicago
  - Dartmouth College
  - Duke University
  - Emory University
  - Georgia Institute of Technology

- Johns Hopkins University
- MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
- Northwestern University
- University of Rochester
- Vanderbilt University
- Washington University in St. Louis
Our Topics:

- Spaces: Jill Chisnell
- Collections: Julia Corrin
- Open Scholarship: Ana Van Gulick
- Advancing Research: Rikk Mulligan
- Skills and Services: Ole Villadsen
- Library Survey: Terrence Chiusano

Our Topics:
We will each define our topics and focus as we present our findings.

As you will hear, there is a fair amount of overlap between our areas, emphasizing the de-siloing of knowledge creation in the contemporary and future research library.