

Appalachian College Association

Central Library

Strategic Plan 2003

Background

The ACA Central Library Council, in session September 29, 2003, developed a background for stating a mission, vision, and goals by assessing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats currently operative for the Central Library. After brainstorming each of these points, the following were agreed to be primary in each category as members of the Council perceived them, with the guidance of Susan Perry (Council for Library Information Resources) facilitating.

Strengths

- Collaboration and partnership concepts in place and well understood
- Leadership is strong
- Sustainability of the model has been provided as the Central Library has developed.
- Technological innovation has been a cornerstone for the success of the efforts
- Financial stability for the Central Library is strong.

Weaknesses

- Communication and communication feedback could be improved.
- We may be spreading ourselves too thinly
- Information Technology limitations hold some campuses back
- We depend on a small financial base

Opportunities

- Improved information and services to users
- To be a national model for collaboration in a cost effective way
- Enhance uses of technology
- Leverage new partnerships
- Increase expertise for library staffs
- To continue development of collections for the Central Library and to continue to develop the Digital Library of Appalachia

Threats

- Adequate resources are always a challenge, particularly
 - Money – Nearly all development requires -- even maintenance of existing collections and services require -- increasing levels of financial support.
 - Bandwidth – New applications make increasingly heavy demands on bandwidth.
 - Staff in the library and information technology areas – attracting and retaining well qualified personnel promises to continue, even increase in difficulty for the future.
- Relevancy of the library within the academic community is called into question in the internet age.
- It is difficult to stay abreast of the rapidly changing technological environment.

Mission

The Central Library partners with each institution to make it economically possible to provide all ACA students, faculty, and staff with the best information resources and services available to support teaching, learning and scholarship.

Vision

The Central Library stands as a national model to provide resources of choice, 24x7, to enable the campus library to satisfy the teaching, learning and scholarship needs of each campus.

Goals

1. To extend resources and services through collaborative initiatives.
 - a. Ongoing
 - i. Core Collection Development will continue to build a core collection useful to all ACA libraries in the liberal arts. The purpose of the core collection is to minimize costs for resources all need and to free local funds for distinctive campus needs.
 - ii. The Central Library will continue to maintain and develop distributed purchasing opportunities as needs and opportunities are identified.
 - iii. The Gifts and Exchange Listserv continues to provide an avenue for re-distributing excess materials among ACA libraries.
 - iv. An Interlibrary Loan Agreement will continue to provide a vehicle for loans between ACA libraries without cost levies for those exchanges.
 - v. The Ariel System continues to facilitate the delivery of some types of interlibrary loans to speed the service rendered while dramatically diminishing costs, whenever it can be used.
 - vi. Software and a server to offer Electronic Reserves options for ACA libraries has been installed and will be maintained to assist any interested library.
 - vii. The Library Instruction Toolbox will be moved to the ERes platform and its contents reviewed for currency.

- viii. The ACA Faculty Database is maintained as a service for the ACA and seeks to be current and up to date.
 - ix. Supply Discounts will be rejuvenated in the Spring 2004 semester, with annual updates scheduled for the future.
 - x. Assessment Systems Development will continue as needs and opportunities are identified.
 - b. 2003/2004
 - i. A Reciprocal Borrowing System will be discussed further by the Collection Development and Resource Sharing Committee and the Central Library Council during the 2003/04 academic year.
 - ii. Shared Catalog/ILS -- Work will begin on the extraction of records, integration of the database, and launch of OPAC, Circulation and Cataloging modules during the 2003/04 academic year.
 - b. Fall 2003
 - i. An commitment to collaborate on Consolidated Web Links will be launched in the fall 2003.
 - ii. A Digital Reference reference service will be launched with training in the fall 2003.
 - iii. A subcommittee of the User Services & Education Committee will be investigating needs and opportunities for an Internship Project starting in the fall of 2003.
 - iv. A Work Restructuring Project will launch in the fall 2003, with the workshop phase to be completed by the end of the spring 2004 semester.
 - c. Spring 2004 -- An Electronic Resource Management System will be implemented during the spring semester 2004 for the Central Library, using software obtained from Haverford, underwritten by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.
 - d. Summer 2004 -- After implementation of the Mellon/Haverford Electronic Resource Management system is implemented for the Central Library in the spring 2004, Campus Library Electronic Resource Management system development can begin to be explored in the summer 2004, using the same software.
- 2. To extend staff expertise through collaborative initiatives, professional development, and recruitment strategies.
 - a. Ongoing
 - i. Emerson Awards for Librarian Fellowships and Librarianship Grants will continue to be advertised, evaluated, and awarded by the Professional Development Committee and the Emerson Awards Review Panel.
 - ii. Annual Meetings will continue with Library Administration scheduled in the fall, Library Public Services in early spring, and Library Technical Services scheduled for late spring.
 - iii. Professional Development Opportunities Program will continue with 5 award times designated per year.
 - iv. Workshops will continue to be scheduled as needs and opportunities are identified.
 - v. Listservs will continue to be maintained as needs and opportunities arise.
 - vi. Campus Library Personnel Directory will continue to be compiled and made available with timely updates.
 - b. Fall 2003 - A new Mentoring Program will be presented to the Annual Meeting for Library Administration in the fall 2003 for discussion leading to implementation as that discussion may propose.
 - c. 2003/04 - The Central Library Committee Structure will be maintained and reinforced through the 2003/04 year with the development of bylaws to better explain the functions of the committees and council.
 - d. To Be Determined - The UK/IMLS Project will be implemented as indicated for the ACA as funding permits.
- 3. To refine and enhance the governance and communication structure to increase participation and further enfranchise all members.
 - a. The Central Library will nurture committees and work with them on refining the strategic plan.
 - b. Web page will be used for communication facilitation with further expansion/development and regular updates.
 - c. Efforts will be made to better communicate needed financial information..
 - d. Offer information will be made available behind a secure web site by the end of the 2003/04 year.
 - e. An annual survey of Central Library services will be administered by the Assessment & Administrative Issue Committee, including a satisfaction survey and 2 major issues facing you library in the next 2 years.
 - f. Efforts will be committed to standardizing and systematizing usage studies on core and distributed collections.
 - g. The need to develop bylaws for Council with line and staff chart within the ACA will be addressed.
 - h. Efforts will be launched to investigate cooperation with other library associations and consortia.
- 4. To draw together unique ACA resources, archives and special collections, along with other repositories, in ways that promote, assist the preservation of, and access to, those collections.
 - a. Ongoing
 - i. Digital Library of Appalachia -- The Central Library will continue to maintain and develop the DLA as needs and opportunities are identified.
 - ii. Preservation Assistance Grants -- The Central Library will continue to support and encourage campus development of Preservation Assistance Grants as the most efficient and effective way to initiate and carry through on beginning a strong conservation and preservation program for archival and special collections.
 - b. The Central Library will actively seek funding for a broad based program to promote the preservation of, and access for, special and archival collections in the ACA.
 - c. The ACA Central Library will work with other repositories of Appalachian culture to extend our resource base more comprehensively.
- 5. To leverage technology to facilitate innovative and cost effective solutions to mutual needs.
 - a. The Central Library affirms the importance of information infrastructure research & development in alliance with association and campus IT goals and objectives and will work to progress toward improvements in that infrastructure as needs and opportunities are identified.
 - b. Specifically, the Central Library pledges to work with development of the ACA Quad as a means to upgrade the information infrastructure.