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**Special Session:** Yes

**Session Title:** Developing new and innovative collaborations: Four U.S. Academic Research Libraries

**Session Description:**

The papers in this themed session use the case studies approach to describe four very different types of collaborations at academic research libraries in the United States.

From collaborating across the state of New Mexico to help students lower their textbook expenses, to incorporating escape rooms in library orientation, to using a library space to promote campus partners' service in Kansas; to Vanderbilt Libraries' role in pairing professional staff in experiential learning units across the university with undergraduate students in order to facilitate connections with campus resources, this session aims to share the best practices and lessons learned in these wide ranging collaborations.

**Paper 1**

**Title:** Assessing Financial Burden of Textbooks on Students in New Mexico, USA - A Statewide Collaboration

**Presenter bio:** Dr. Leo Lo is Dean and Professor of the College of University Libraries and Learning Services (CULLS) at the University of New Mexico. He oversees over 120 full time faculty and staff and provides leadership for all University Libraries operations, Organization, Information, and Learning Sciences (OILS) programs, and the UNM Press. Lo holds a Doctor of Education (Ed.D) from the University of Pennsylvania, and M.S. in Library and Information Studies degree from Florida State University.

**Abstract:**

Average out-of-state tuition at public U.S. universities have risen 171% in the past 20 years, and in-state tuition has grown even more, increasing by 211%. The financial burden on U.S. university students has never been higher, with the federal student loans now at a startling \$1.73 trillion. In addition to tuition, average textbook expenses are about \$1,240 per academic year. In order to lessen the college costs for students, many U.S. academic libraries are taking the lead on promoting the development and adoption of open and affordable education resources. For the state of New Mexico, a number of university library deans and directors are partnering to use data to advocate for institutional, governmental, and private sector support in the promotion of open and affordable education resources. This paper describes the forming of

the partnership; the development of the assessment and data collection; and the initial implementation of the initiative.

## **Paper 2**

**Title:** Escaping the Mundane: Using Escape Rooms to Teach and Assess First-Year Students

### **Presenter bio:**

Erica England is the First-Year Experience Librarian at the Holland/Terrell Library at Washington State University, where she serves as the Undergraduate Services Instruction Coordinator and liaison to the composition program. Prior to joining WSU, she worked as a librarian at both the University of Alabama and the University of Central Florida. Previous to that, she worked in secondary schools, as both a school media specialist and a classroom teacher. Her research interests are centered around the first-year experience and the effect that information literacy instruction has on student success.

### **Abstract:**

Librarians are always looking for inventive ways to engage first year students in library orientation programs. Escape rooms are a recent innovation to the education gaming scene, incorporating technology and creative thinking into instruction lessons, and promoting student engagement and collaboration, while still allowing students to explore physical spaces within the library. In this presentation, the speaker will detail how escape rooms were initially implemented for use in a First-Year Success Seminar course at Washington State University, and how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the mode of delivery. This session will present data from students on their experiences, and will offer practical tips on implementing escape rooms to other librarians.

## **Paper 3**

**Title:** Promoting student success through K-State Libraries Resource Link

### **Presenter bios:**

Nicole Buehler is a Library User Services Specialist at Kansas State University, where she serves as the Resource Link Coordinator. Her research interests include outreach, first-year experience, and supporting academic success through library partnerships with the campus community.

Jason Coleman is the Head of K-State Libraries' Library User Services Department, which is responsible for circulation, interlibrary loan, reserves, and front-line reference services. The department also manages the Resource Link at Hale Library. Previous positions have included Social Sciences Liaison Librarian and Undergraduate Services Librarian, and Reference Generalist. He co-founded the American Library Association's Best Emerging Technology Application Award and has chaired several committees within the Reference and User Services Association. His research interests include collegiality with regard to tenure, reference services, communication between librarians and non-library faculty, and research self-efficacy.

**Abstract:**

Kansas State University Libraries designed a portion of its Learning Commons as an area for campus partners to promote their services and directly engage with students in a safe, neutral setting. During the planning process, a team of librarians interviewed leaders of student success units throughout campus to learn about their goals and the challenges they face. The team analyzed the interviews and used what they learned to create a strategic vision for the area and name it the Resource Link at Hale Library. With a focus on promoting academic success by holistically supporting student well-being, the Resource Link has rapidly developed partnerships with the Writing Center, the Career Center, the Academic Achievement Center, and the Campus Food Pantry. This session will describe the planning process, present the assessment methods used to judge success and modify policies, and share practical tips that other libraries can use to create a dynamic, impactful partner space.

**Paper 4**

**Title:** Cross-Campus Collaborations to Support the Holistic Undergraduate Experience at Vanderbilt University

**Presenter bio:** Melissa Mallon, MLIS, is Associate University Librarian for Teaching & Learning at Vanderbilt University. She has published, presented, and taught professional development courses in the areas of online learning, instructional design, and the impact of information and digital literacies on student learning. Her books include *Partners in Teaching & Learning: Coordinating a Successful Academic Library Instruction Program*; *The Pivotal Role of Academic Librarians in Digital Learning*; and the co-edited volumes, *The Grounded Instruction Librarian: Participating in the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning* and (forthcoming) *Exploring Inclusive & Equitable Pedagogies: Creating Space for All Learners*.

**Abstract:** Even on residential campuses, where undergraduate students spend their time engaging with a variety of University resources and services, silos are unfortunately common. This paper will describe the Vanderbilt Libraries' involvement in the Vanderbilt "Campus Connections" program, which pairs professional staff in experiential learning units across the university with undergraduate students in order to facilitate connections with campus resources (including the library). In addition to sharing details about the program and its outcomes, this paper will present data based on librarian+student interactions and share qualitative feedback from students on their experiences with the program.