

Library strategies: evidence for going forward? a workshop

Panel:

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Abstract:

Research libraries find themselves in turbulent times. The changing winds of research policy, digitalization, increasing license fees, the Open Science movement, changes in student behavior and many other factors appear to be in a state of flux. During such turbulent times means of maneuvering and nautical markers are of extreme importance to both management and staff.

Unless a research library can define where it wants to be, and what it wants to do in the future, there is a danger that the annual plans are created from view of the rear mirror– or rather ‘what we did last year’.

A library strategy is a series of markers for the organization and a well-drafted one creates a higher level of focus on which activities that will lead to success and which ones that will not, and it will help the library prioritize its resources and guide competence development.

Many European research libraries are fully aware of the importance of having a well-defined strategy. Others rely on the strategy set by their mother institution and others are in the process of seeking inspiration for their next or their new strategy. With this workshop we wish to raise awareness and also to open up for a discussion of how success or failure can be measured. We hope that such discussion will touch upon international standards used (or the need for such standards) and possibly lead to proposals for new international standards and performance indicators. The aim should be to propose these standards as tools so as to better measure success and failure and therefore to help in giving the directions for the future.

Our workshop will welcome them all and hopefully give every participant a set of relevant takeaways.

During the workshop we wish to discuss library strategies from several

perspectives. First, we will present a small comparative study of 4-6 selected European research libraries. We will seek similarities in the mission and vision statements and attempt to identify overall trends in research library strategies. Secondly, two library directors from very different institutions will present their thoughts and experiences with the strategic processes. These presentations will be followed by a discussion with the workshop participants. Finally, the panelists will present an overview of the most important elements and points that should be addressed by any library developing a strategy.

Target audience: Library professionals and managers

Number of participants: Guestimate 15-25

No special equipment required.

Timeslot: approximately 1,5 hours