

Association of College & Research Libraries
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ACRL Criteria for the Creation of New Programs and/or Services

This document should guide ACRL's units and staff when considering the addition of a new program or service to ACRL's current repertoire of programs and services. These criteria may also be applied to current programs and services to determine the continuing value and validity of these offerings. As an operating principle, any proposed or existing programs and services must meet one or more specific need of the ACRL community and of its members.

ACRL's Purpose

To lead academic and research librarians and libraries in advancing learning and scholarship.

Please refer to <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/whatisacrl/acrlstratplan/stratplan.htm> for a full copy of ACRL's strategic plan.

Questions for Assessing Programs and Services

These questions should frame any substantive discussion when ACRL is evaluating existing or weighing the possibility of adding new programs and services to serve members and the academic and research libraries community. Please answer these questions in a separate document. This completed assessment should accompany any proposals to the ACRL Board for new initiatives or services.

1. Name of ACRL unit and individual (with contact information) submitting proposal.
2. Give a brief description of the proposed new program or service.
3. How and to what extent does the proposed program or service advance one or more of the areas of the strategic plan?
4. Which goal area and strategic objective does this program or service assist us in accomplishing?
5. What specific benefits will this program or service provide to members?
6. What specific benefits will this program or service provide to enhance ACRL's reputation?
7. Who else is already pursuing or might pursue this program or service?
8. Can ACRL offer this program or service and do it better than anyone else?
9. Are there other organizations or individuals that are considered competitors, potential collaborators, or potential adopters of this program or service?
10. What is the potential impact of this program or service to the ACRL office as it relates to staffing (staff time needed for development, additional staff positions needed, absorption into current office, etc.)?
11. What is the expected time frame for implementation of this program and service and when are results likely to be evident?
12. What are the financial objectives of the program or service (revenue generating, budget neutral)? What kind of resources does this program need—staff support (e.g., marketing, administration, publishing, meeting planning, etc.) volunteer time, direct costs? Please attach a draft budget.