

Interactive and Collaborative Curricular Learning Communities: Recommended Readings and Resources

Law and Political Science Section 2004 Program
American Library Association Annual Conference – Orlando, Florida
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SELECTED BACKGROUND RESOURCES:

What is the Law & Diversity Program at Fairhaven College, Western Washington University? Find out about the program's goals, curriculum, and resources on their site.
<http://www.ac.wvu.edu/~ldp/>

**** What is a learning community?** See the National Learning Communities Project's site for a definition. http://learningcommons.evergreen.edu/03_start_entry.asp

What is information literacy? See the ACRL Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education for established standards and outcome examples.
<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlstandards/standards.pdf>

SELECTED BOOKS:

Gabelnick, Faith, Jean MacGregor, Roberta Matthews, & Barbara L. Smith (eds.) (1990). ***Learning Communities: Creating Connections among Students, Faculty and Disciplines***. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass. [ISBN 155542838X]
This title was cited over and over again. A new edition is expected later in 2004. The book is written from the point of the classroom; and using team teaching to create learning communities.

**** Lenning, Oscar T., & Larry H. Ebers. (1999). *The Powerful Potential of Learning Communities: Improving Education for the Future***. ASHE-ERIC Higher Education Report Volume 26, No. 6. Washington, D.C.: The George Washington University, Graduate School of Education and Human Development. [ISBN 1-878380-86-9 or ISSN 0884-0040]
Prepared by ERIC Clearinghouse on Higher Education in cooperation with ASHE, Association for the Study of Higher Education. A good primer on why do we need learning communities; what types exist; what is their value and what is needed to develop and implement these communities. Definitions and a 29 page bibliography of ERIC documents pre-1999 are included.

**** Pedersen, Sarah (2003). *Learning Communities and the Academic Library***. National Learning Communities Project Monograph Series. Olympia, WA: The Evergreen State College, Washington Center for Improving the Quality of Education, in cooperation with the American Association for Higher Education and the Association of College and Research Libraries. [ISBN 1-5677-062-8].

This short book gives examples and history of learning communities with academic librarians' involvement. The learning communities range from structured, credit courses to more informal arrangements within courses. ACRL standards are included, as well as, seven pages of references.

Retallick, John, Barry Cocklin, & Kennece Coombe (eds.) (1999). ***Learning Communities in***

Education: Issues, Strategies and Contexts. London and New York: Routledge. [ISBN 0415197600].

Essays from various levels of education across the English-speaking world address the principles of learning communities, strategies of implementation and growth, and case studies.

Shapiro, Nancy Sherman, & Jodi H. Levine (1999). **Creating Learning Communities: a Practical Guide to Winning Support, Organizing for Change, and Implementing Programs.** San Francisco: Jossey-Bass. [ISBN 0787944629]

A textbook for college faculty and administrators addresses rationales; history; practical requirements for curricula, personnel, and logistics; evaluation and assessment.

Van Der Bogert, Rebecca (ed.) (1998). Making **Learning Communities Work: the Critical Role of the Leader as Learner.** San Francisco: Jossey-Bass. (*New Directions in School Leadership* 7.) [ISBN 0787942723]

An insiders' view of learning communities: members of a network of school principals reflect about what they learned and experienced both as facilitators of learning in their home institutions and as members of their own professional learning community.

SELECTED JOURNAL ARTICLES:

Huerta, Juan Carlos. (April 2004). "Do Learning Communities Make a Difference?" *PS: Political Science and Politics* 37(2): 291-296.

A political science professor's statistical analysis of large political science classes at his college and the use of learning communities.

Lippincott, Joan K. (March 2002). "Developing Collaborative Relationships: Librarians, students, and faculty creating learning communities." *College and Research Libraries News* 63(3): 190-192.

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlpubs/crlnews/backissues/2002/march/developingcollaborative.htm>]

A history of workshops by ACRL, Educom, the Association of Higher Education and Coalition for Networked Information that explored how librarians in ten pioneering institutions transformed themselves from conventional library instructors into members of learning communities.

Lynch, Clifford A., Janet H. Murray, Alana Springsteen, Carolyn Karis, Daniel Callison, Jon Goodman & Doug Donzelli. (Winter 2004). "The Future of Libraries," *Threshold* 2004: 13-17. [http://www.ciconline.org/AboutCIC/Publications/Archives/threshold_winter04.htm] Note: scroll down and pick the article; cannot directly link to the article.

Six essays by visionary thinkers on how libraries, librarians, and library patrons will adapt to changing times. The first one by Lynch, "The New Dimensions of Learning Communities," discusses how the merging of physical library space and electronic resources is redefining how new learning communities works. Springsteen and Karis are school librarians and discuss this from that point of view.

SELECTED WEB SITES:

Cox, Milton D. **Developing Faculty and Professional Learning Communities (FLCs) to Transform Campus Culture for Learning.** Miami University's Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching. [<http://www.units.muohio.edu/flc/>]

This program focuses on faculty development as a way of enhancing instruction. Though not directly applicable to librarians, librarians with faculty status could be eligible for topic-based or

cohort-based faculty learning communities.

Indiana State University. **First Year Programs. Learning Community Handbook** [12 page version]. [http://www.indstate.edu/fyp/Handbook_Medium.PDF]

This handbook guides faculty teaching in the First Year Programs, and it includes an especially rich discussion on the involvement of librarians in the success of their program.

Included are practical examples for faculty and librarian partnerships (see page 6).

Instruction Section. **Librarians in Learning Communities: A Networking Guide.**

Association of College & Research Libraries.

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrlbucket/is/conferencesacrl/annual02/librarianslearning.htm>]

This list offers objectives and outcomes of librarian collaboration with learning communities and provides contacts for each university.

Instruction Section. **Libraries, Learning Communities, and the First Year of College**

[bibliography]. Association of College & Research Libraries.

[<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrlbucket/is/conferencesacrl/annual001/learningcommunities.htm>]

The Instruction Section presents a useful bibliography on the relationship between the library, librarians, and learning communities. Most literature relates to first year student learning communities.

National Learning Communities Project. **Learning Community Commons.** The Evergreen State College. [<http://learningcommons.evergreen.edu/home.asp>]

This site provides background on learning communities, answers to common learning community questions, and a resource for finding literature on the topic. The center produces monographs about the study of learning communities, and executive summaries may be viewed on this site.

Compiled in June 2004 by LPSS Library Instruction Committee, ACRL.

Chair: Kelly Janousek, Librarian, California State University, Long Beach, CA. Members: Kathleen Fountain, California State University, Chico, CA, Bruce Pencek, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA.