



ACRL Talking Points - 2025

ABOUT ACRL

- The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) is *the* higher education association for librarians with nearly 8,500 members.
- ACRL is the only individual membership organization in North America that develops programs, products and services to help academic and research librarians learn, innovate and lead within the academic community.
- Founded in 1940, ACRL is committed to advancing learning and transforming scholarship.
- ACRL’s core values include visionary leadership, transformation, new ideas, and global perspectives; exemplary service to members; equity, diversity, and inclusion; integrity and transparency; continuous learning; responsible stewardship of resources; and the values of higher education, intellectual freedom, the ALA Ethics policy, and “The Library Bill of Rights.”
- ACRL is dedicated to creating diverse and inclusive communities in the Association and in academic and research libraries. This core commitment permeates the work of the Association, cutting across all ACRL sections, committees, interest and discussion groups, and communities of practice. The Association will acknowledge and address historical racial inequities; challenge oppressive systems within academic libraries; value different ways of knowing; and identify and work to eliminate barriers to equitable services, spaces, resources, and scholarship.
- ACRL is unwavering in its long-standing commitment to promoting the free exchange of different viewpoints and ensuring privacy and confidentiality in academic libraries.

KEY MESSAGES ON ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

- Academic and research librarians and libraries are essential to a thriving global community of learners and scholars.
- As students, faculty, and staff change the way they consume information, academic libraries are also transforming to ensure success across the higher education community.
- Academic librarians' professional expertise is anchored in our ability to identify and make credible resources available to our diverse communities.
- As instructors, academic librarians teach students to critically evaluate information and to seek differing perspectives.
- Academic libraries continue working to meet the needs of an increasingly tech-savvy constituency and lead the library world in innovative data curation, publishing, and digitization efforts.
- The pressure on higher education to demonstrate value remains an important issue facing academic and research libraries.
- Academic libraries and librarians play a critical role in creating spaces in which diverse and divergent viewpoints can be shared and exchanged.

THE VALUE OF ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

- Academic libraries demonstrate alignment with, and impact on, institutional outcomes.
- To assist libraries in demonstrating this alignment, ACRL articulates a research agenda that communicates the value of academic and research libraries.
- Academic libraries and librarians actively promote the impact and value of academic and research libraries to the higher education community.
- ACRL facilitates change and awareness in these areas through projects such as the Value of Academic Libraries initiative.
- Project Outcome for Academic Libraries, based on a model developed by the Public Library Association (PLA), helps academic libraries understand and share the impact of essential library programs and services by providing simple surveys and an easy-to-use process for measuring and analyzing outcomes.

- Benchmark: Library Metrics and Trends, a collaborative project of ACRL and the Public Library Association (PLA), powers library data analysis and visualization. This digital resource can help libraries plan, make informed decisions, and tell the story of their impact.
- The ACRL Academic Library Advocacy Toolkit is a curated collection of resources that can help equip academic library administrators and library professionals with the resources they need to advocate for the value, roles, and contributions of academic libraries to their campus communities.
- ACRL's Standards for Libraries in Higher Education are designed to guide academic libraries in advancing and sustaining their role as partners in educating students, achieving their institutions' missions, and positioning libraries as leaders in assessment and continuous improvement on their campuses.

STUDENT LEARNING AND INFORMATION LITERACY

- ACRL is committed to advancing innovative practices and environments that transform student learning.
- The contributions of academic librarians to student learning and critical thinking are more important than ever.
- ACRL builds capacity for librarians to collaborate with faculty and other campus partners in instructional and curricular design and delivery that will integrate information literacy into student learning.
- The volume and range of quality of online information has led some students to believe that if a resource can't be found online, it doesn't exist. This misconception, coupled with students' inability to analyze online information, especially information shared on social media, along with the plagiarism of online sources, has kept the need to teach information literacy skills at the forefront of academic and research librarianship.
- ACRL's Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education helps librarians think in new and creative ways in instructing and supporting students as not only consumers of information but also as collaborative creators and producers of information.
- Based on the ACRL Framework, Threshold Achievement Test for Information Literacy (TATIL), is a simple, easy-to-use standardized test that measures the achievement of the information literacy education outcomes, regardless of a student's major or research focus, across four modules which address learning across all the frames.

RESEARCH AND THE SCHOLARLY ENVIRONMENT

- ACRL is committed to the principle that librarians accelerate the transition to more open and equitable systems of scholarship.
- Academic and research librarians believe strongly that society benefits from the open exchange of ideas. Access to information is essential in a democratic society and for the advancement of research and knowledge.
- Major areas of association activity in this area include educating the higher education community about scholarly communication issues, building coalitions with other organizations concerned with these issues, advocating change (especially at the federal level) and increasing openness in research, including access to data.
- ACRL has endorsed a variety of specific strategies for fostering change. Open access is one of these strategies.
- Open access material is online, free of charge, and available two ways: publishing and archiving. Both are supported by a range of business models and are fully compatible with copyright, peer review, tenure, and promotion processes.
- As part of its commitment to openness, ACRL is opposed to actions that silence scientists and other specialists employed by Federal agencies as these actions set dangerous precedents for fair and open, democratic governance and hinder the advancement of scientific knowledge by restricting the dissemination of research.
- ACRL created its free Scholarly Communication Toolkit, which provides content and context on a broad range of scholarly communication topics, including expanded information on data management. It also offers links to specific tools, including handouts, presentations and videos for libraries to use on their own campuses.

NEW ROLES AND CHANGING LANDSCAPES

- ACRL works to ensure that the academic and research library workforce effectively navigates change in higher education environments.
- ACRL advocates for, and supports, a full range of information professionals, while equipping the library workforce at all levels to effectively lead, manage, and embrace change, advocate for their communities, and serve as a catalyst for transformational change in higher education.
- ACRL strives to increase diversity, cultivate equity, and nurture inclusion in the academic library workforce.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

- ACRL is dedicated to creating diverse and inclusive communities in the Association and in academic and research libraries, including practicing cultural humility, promoting community accountability, and being unwavering in ongoing, iterative commitment to remedy systemic inequalities.
- The Association will acknowledge and address historical racial inequities; challenge oppressive systems within academic libraries; value different ways of knowing; and identify and work to eliminate barriers to equitable services, spaces, resources, and scholarship.
- ACRL works to enhance members' capacity to acknowledge, interrogate, and dismantle white supremacist structures and other systems of oppression; provide professional development and resources to attract, hire, support, retain, and promote workers from marginalized communities, which helps build inclusive working environments that center trust and belonging; and build relationships and coalitions to cultivate "collective ownership, accountability, and responsibility."
- The ACRL Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion LibGuide contains a wealth of information on ways ACRL has implemented the association's Core Commitment, including the ACRL Diversity Alliance; standards and guidelines; information on conference and online learning programming; links to books, articles, and other publications focusing on EDI topics; a calendar of association activities; and suggestions on ways the community can get involved in this important work.

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