

University of Massachusetts Amherst

From the Selected Works of Madeleine K. Charney

Fall October 11, 2011

Libraries for Sustainability - Networking Event at AASHE 2011

Madeleine K. Charney, *University of Massachusetts Amherst*

Bonnie J Smith, *University of Florida*



Available at: https://works.bepress.com/charney_madeleine/51/

Thank you for participating in "Libraries for Sustainability," the networking event at the AASHE conference on 10/11/2011. The discussion was lively and productive!

Below are ten ideas for how to create or augment connections with your campus libraries around sustainability topics:

- 1) Ask about Research Guides. Sometimes called "LibGuides," these tools can be easily embedded into online courses or sent around as links. You can usually request a guide on a specific topic or a course guide for a specific course/assignment. Here is a good example of a Sustainability Guide created by Mark Lenker of Longwood University:
<http://libguides.longwood.edu/content.php?pid=4643&sid=28462>.
- 2) Partner with the Library when hosting a film or lecture series or book discussion on sustainability topics. What about other sustainability events held at the Library? EarthDay could be a good tie in.
- 3) Invite librarians to serve on curriculum-related committees or councils related to sustainability. Librarians tend to be good systems thinkers, possess a unique pulse on curricular developments and work across many campus networks.
- 4) Consider how librarians can provide an Information Literacy component to sustainability courses. Co-teaching a class may also be an option.
- 5) Request that a librarian meet with a class or group to demonstrate effective information-seeking methods. Librarians also provide individual consultations.
- 6) Ask about Collection Development and how allocations are distributed between departments. Also, consider that a strong collection reflects well on new and existing sustainability programs. Make recommendations.
- 7) Use the resources and direct students to them -- usage statistics can drive decisions of whether or not to retain an electronic resource!
- 8) Invite your campus library to contribute to a campus sustainability newsletter. For instance, a regular column highlighting a sustainability-related library resource or event.
- 9) If your campus has an Institutional Repository, ask the administrators to create a section on sustainability. Then ask colleagues, colleges, faculty and others to deposit their works, research, presentations and other sustainability materials in the repository.
- 10) Join the new LinkedIn group "[Sustainability Librarians](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Sustainability-Librarians-3928605)" (<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Sustainability-Librarians-3928605>) for ideas, support, sharing information, etc. and let librarians on your campus know about it.

Please get in touch with either of us if you have questions, suggestions, ideas, etc. about the role of libraries in the campus sustainability movement.

Regards,

Madeleine Charney and Bonnie Smith

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Bonnie J. Smith
Assistant Program Director for Human Resources
University of Florida
George A. Smathers Libraries
(352) 273-2603
(352) 392-4538 (fax)
bonniesmith@ufl.edu

<.>.<.>.<.>.<.>.<.>.<.>
Madeleine Charney
Research Services Librarian
W.E.B. Du Bois Library
154 Hicks Way
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003-9275
(413) 577-0784
mcharney@library.umass.edu
http://works.bepress.com/charney_madeleine/