Summer June 2, 2016

Academic Libraries as Sustainability Hubs: Evolving with our Campus Community and within our Profession

Madeleine K. Charney
Academic Libraries as Sustainability Hubs

Evolving with our Campus Community and within our Profession

Madeleine Charney
Sustainable Academic Libraries: Now and Beyond Conference
June 2, 2016
Outline

• Academic libraries and sustainability
• Sampling of possibilities and U.S. projects
• UMass Amherst Libraries: A case study
• Sustainability Round Table (SustainRT)
• Reflective exercise
Sustainable Society: 3 legs of the stool
Rising Temperatures Cause...

• Food and water scarcity
• Severe droughts, floods, wild fires
• Rising sea levels
• Desertification and deforestation
• Economic inequity and poverty
• War and regional conflicts
• Increased potential for pandemics
Hurricane Katrina New Orleans (2005)
“Just like the information revolution rapidly swept through libraries, the sustainability revolution must sweep through faster than we think we can stand it.” –Mandy Henk

Ecology, Economy, Equity: The Path to a Carbon-neutral Library (p.8)
What is our capacity?

- **Sustainability** - endure
- **Resiliency** - bounce back after disruption
- **Regeneration** - bring new, energetic life
Core Values of Librarianship

- Service
- Access
- Diversity
- Intellectual freedom
- Preservation
- Privacy
- Democracy
- Lifelong learning
- Social responsibility
- Public good
Library Professionals: Sustainability Advocates

Natural systems thinkers

Transdisciplinary

Truth seekers

Community builders

Accustomed to riding waves of change

Stewards

Providers of neutral space
The greatest danger to our future is apathy.

-Jane Goodall
Perceived Limitations to Sustainability Action

• Time
• Funding
• Isolation
• “It’s not in my job description”
• Overwhelmed by climate change
Potential Partners: Counselors, Student groups, Local Libraries, Community groups, Service learning, Departments, Facilities, Dining, Donors, Local Libraries.
Institution-wide

• Join a sustainability campus committee
• Attend open meetings, ask questions from the library
• Invite key people for tea or coffee
• Set up a booth at campus susti. events
• Member of higher education/susti coalition?
• President signed *Talloires Declaration* or *Second Nature* commitment? If yes, then you’ve got a mandate!
Library Building

- Contemplative space
- Clothing drive for those in need
- BetterWorld Books
- TerraCycle
- Office supply re-use station
- Water refill station
- Native plant spaces

Brag about what you’re doing!
Green Spaces
Texas State University

Planning & Implementation

It all began with a plan... A Strategic Plan
Enhance library spaces to be welcoming
destinations of choice

Key Elements of the Proposal
- How this fit into library initiatives
- Background
- Consultation with experts
  - Choosing plants & containers
  - Location
  - Care & maintenance
- Estimated budget
- Implementation timeline
- Assessment of year 1

Lessons Learned
- Hiring & training
- Plants
- Containers
- Dealing with pests
- Feedback

Next Steps
- Additional assessment
- Request funding for additional green spaces in
  FY 2016
- Experiment with different containers
- Request funding for self contained watering system

Permission: Lisa A. Ancelet
University of California Santa Barbara
Davidson Library
LEED Gold

www.history.ucsb.edu/venue/ucsb-library/
Unique Collections

- Seed library
- Tools
- Kill-a-Watt voltage meters
- Bike pumps
- Yoga mats
- Maker space kit
Welcome to the Hampshire College Seed Lending Library Guide!

The Seed Lending Library at Hampshire College is the result of a collaborative effort between Hannah Haskell (F08) and the Harold F. Johnson Library. It was created to give the Hampshire community access to organic and non-genetically engineered seeds, free of charge. The library also serves as a resource for hopeful growers who wish to learn more about sustainable farming and gardening practices, specifically the practice of seed saving.

For millennia humans have been selectively breeding heartier plants by saving their seeds each season. This cultivation process has not only sustained mankind, but also countless varieties of food crops, flowers, and medicinal plants for generations. Today, if you look at the produce section of your local grocery store you won't find much variety at all. This is because in recent years, agroindustrial farming has been eradicating lesser-known varieties in favor of those that are more marketable (i.e., larger, sweeter, more brightly colored). Between 1900 and 2000, the number of crop varieties in the USA was reduced by over 75%. The Seed Lending Library is a step towards re-introducing these seeds to the world, and making them available to any community that wishes to grow them.

Want to know more about saving seeds? Check out the resource below, by Hannah Haskell (F08) - the Official Guide of the Hampshire College Seed Lending Library!
Library Engagement

• Consider a sustainability fund
• Create a Library Sustainability Plan
• Host a Book to Action program
• Ask patrons to vision with you
• Create IR space for campus data
• Showcase student work – empower the millennials
Sustainability at Yale

Yale University is dedicated to an integrated, comprehensive approach to policy and operations that balances ecosystem health with human health and economic viability in order to demonstrate that sustainability is both feasible and affordable. To accomplish this goal the University integrates sustainable practices into the fabric of institutional decision-making at all levels.

Each unit on campus has a unique cultural context. Successful implementation of sustainability goals will rely on efforts to refine tools and tactics to suit this diversity of disciplines and perspectives.

Figure 1: sustainability values
Don’t Panic, It’s Organic*: Supporting Sustainable Agriculture and Hunger Relief Efforts at McQuade Library

Catherine Wong and Kathryn Geoffrion Scannell

McQuade Library at Merrimack College partnered with a community-supported agriculture (CSA) operation to provide fresh, local foods to the College and surrounding community.

Why Start a CSA Pick Up at Your Library?
❖ Supports sustainable agriculture and local foods movement
❖ Community Supported Agriculture is good for the environment (less packaging, less fuel to move food, less toxic chemicals, increased species diversity on small farms)
❖ Healthy option which supports wellness of campus community
❖ Opportunity for outreach with faculty, staff, students, and surrounding community

Community Supported Agriculture is good for the environment and the local foods movement. McQuade Library at Merrimack College became a distributor of local foods by partnering with a community supported agriculture (CSA) operation to provide fresh foods to the college and surrounding community. CSAs are a way to directly support local agriculture with sustainable growing practices. Joining a CSA is entering into a relationship with a farm and farmer whereby members are directly supporting the farm by purchasing a farm share. In exchange for providing monetary or labor support up front and/or during the growing season, farm members are provided with a share of the crops harvested.

Getting Started
❖ First we found a local farm to partner with, secured permission, and created partnerships on campus
❖ Meeting with stakeholders
❖ Hamel Health and Counseling: focus on wellness of community
❖ Welcome Center: share our building and parking (We didn’t want to be in the way of their activities.)
❖ Police services: location, additional cars on campus
❖ Developing a ‘buy local’ message
❖ Creating a website
❖ Creating the CSA sign-up materials
❖ Developing the relationship with the farm
❖organizations and to promote and discuss library resources

McQuade Library partnered with Farmer Dave’s CSA, a farm just eleven miles from the college. Farmer Dave’s utilizes sustainable growing practices and was willing to drop off the food at the library once a week for twenty weeks if we could recruit fifty members. Through our promotional efforts, we surpassed the number of shares needed to form the partnership. Weekly pick-ups commenced with two library staff volunteering as the distribution managers. As some shares of food were not picked up each week, the volunteers were able to distribute a considerable amount of local, fresh food to a nearby food pantry and senior center in the summer months. Once our semester began, students from Merrimack’s Campus Kitchens Project (a hunger-relief effort supported by the Sodexo Foundation) collected the food each week to make meals they delivered to an local, fresh food to a nearby food pantry and senior center in the summer months. 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Abstract
How can libraries support sustainability, wellness, and social justice? Concern for health and the environment has increased interest in sustainable agriculture and the local foods movement. McQuade Library at Merrimack College partnered with a community supported agriculture (CSA) operation to provide fresh foods to the college and surrounding community. CSAs are a way to directly support local agriculture with sustainable growing practices. Joining a CSA is entering into a relationship with a farm and farmer whereby members are directly supporting the farm by purchasing a farm share. In exchange for providing monetary or labor support up front and/or during the growing season, farm members are provided with a share of the crops harvested.

Food Relief
❖ Farmer Dave’s accepts SNAP/EBT/Food Stamps
❖ Leftover food each week due to forgetfulness or vacation
❖ Need a food relief effort that will take fresh produce (large refrigeration unit) at the time you need to drop it off
❖ Beverly Bootstraps
❖ North-Reading Senior Center
❖ Campus Kitchens Project

Evolving Program
❖ Surveyed members with Google Form
❖ Recruited community member to do weekly share-out next year
❖ Farm took over more of the marketing as we had more time to recruit
❖ Farm found a food relief effort that will pick up in the summer before the Campus Kitchens starts

McQuade Library was the recipient of a grant from the Sodexo Foundation to create a Campus Kitchen. Students are given food from Sodexo, which they combined with the leftover CSA food to create meals for the Lazarus House, a food relief and emergency shelter in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Student volunteers would pick up the food after share-out.

Don’t Panic, It’s Organic*:

*Farmer Dave’s is not a certified organic farm, but utilizes sustainable growing practices and is located just 11 miles from McQuade Library.

I loved having the fresh vegetables and fruit each week, and sharing vegetable and fruit shares with a colleague worked perfectly for my household.

Feedback from Merrimack Community Member
Amherst Uprising
Frost Library, Amherst College

http://amherstuprising.com/gallery.html
Library Colleagues

• Identify passions, goals, potential impact = pilot idea
• Write a sustainability collection development policy
• Co-present about library’s sustainability achievements
• Start a Green Team
• Watch a webinar together
• Take an online leadership quiz and discuss results
• Plan a “field trip”
• Invite a guest speaker
Sustainability Collection Development Policy

University of Utah J. Willard Marriott Library:
Sustainability Collection Development Policy Report

31 October 2012

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6. ISSUES FOR LIBRARIANS
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The Library Green Team

Organized in 2011, the team is comprised of members from across library units and is invested in sustainability initiatives and opportunities for recycling throughout the libraries.

- Noted accomplishments include:
  - creation of reuse and recycle program to inventory and make available serviceable, reusable office equipment and furniture within the library
  - Library participation in annual multi-institution Recyclemania program focused on improving recycling rates and waste reduction
  - outreach to student organizations to co-sponsor zero waste film screening events to support a myriad of sustainability topics related to climate change, tiny house movement, water conservation, etc.
  - support of annual Ann Arbor community Commuter Challenge
  - ongoing partnership with student organizations to continue initiatives including the successful deployment of water filling stations
Ask colleagues for support -- and early on.
You never know who might be interested.

- Build capacity
- Move toward integrating sustainability into job descriptions
Library Community - Home Country

• Organize a webinar or unconference
• Hold a TweetUp between groups
• Survey library associations – local, regional, national
• Integrate sustainability into LIS courses, curriculum
• Pitch a column in an association publication
The Capacity To Endure | Sustainability

By Rebekkah Smith Aldrich on  May 2, 2016  Leave a Comment

Think big—I mean really big—about the future of your library and its capacity to endure. Does it have the support it needs? Can it bounce back after disruption? Do its services and programs bring new and energetic life to the community, school, or campus that it serves?

More important, can your residents and students themselves bounce back from disruption? Is your community filled with new and dynamic life that leads to community-based solutions to what ails it? How is your library contributing to this?

I want you to think about not just your library, not just about those...
ProjectARCC

- Protect archival collections
- Reduce our footprint
- Elevate collections
- Preserve this epochal moment in history for future research and understanding
Critlib Unconference
Portland State University

• Brings social justice principles into library work
• Recognizes structural inequalities
• Considers how to disrupt inequitable systems

Sustainable Development Goals:
Library Community – International

• Green Schools listserv
• IFLA/ENSULIB
• Going Green @ Your Library blog
• SustainRT: Facebook, Twitter, blog

• International Sustainability Literacy Test
• International Sustainable Campus Network
• 17 Sustainable Development Goals
University of Massachusetts Amherst

- Public Land-grant, research-intensive university
- 28,000 students and 1,200 faculty
- 108 bachelors, 76 masters, 50 doctorates
- Deeply committed to teaching, learning, practices of sustainability
“But...what does a sustainability studies librarian do?”

- Instruction and consultations
- Sustainability Advisory Committee
- Sustainability research award and fellowship
- Communication & Development
- Mentor librarians
- Advise students
The Library’s Sustainability Fund
Green Practices

• Green Monstah e-waste recycling center
• Green Office Program, all 26 stories of main library
• Café: organic food, composting, compostable utensils
Films and Speakers

American Wasteland
How America Throws Away Nearly Half of Its Food (and what we can do about it)

Jonathan Bloom

GASLAND
Can You Light Your Water on Fire?

Academy Award Nominee
Best Feature Documentary

A masterpiece!

"A brave and fearless film. Everyone should see it!"

Mesmerizing..."-New York Daily News

Films and Speakers
Book Give Away
Sustainability Curriculum Fellowship

Over three years:

# of disciplines = 18
# of students taught = 1,472
Faculty and librarians at play
Undergraduate Sustainability Research Award

- Tied to courses
- Library research essay
- Faculty recommendation
- Winning work in Student Showcase
• Student showcase
• Syllabi, active learning exercises
• Campus data on energy, waste
• Sustainability reports, plans
• Sustainability conference proceedings

Institutional Repository site, co-maintained by the Libraries and the Sustainability Manager
Human Library
Talking Truth:
Finding Your Voice around the Climate Crisis

- Students, staff, librarians, faculty
- Story telling, reflective writing, films, speakers, meditation
- Library display
- Artifacts in University Archives
- Birthed a student climate group
- Partners:
  Service Learning
  Environmental Conservation
  Psychology of Peace and Violence
Lessons Learned

• Include information literacy in student learning outcomes
• Partner with more library colleagues and earlier
• Define planning group roles more clearly
• Write sustainability into the Libraries’ long-range plan
SustainRT: Libraries Fostering Resilient Communities

A venue to exchange library ideas and opportunities regarding sustainability in order to move toward a more equitable, healthy and economically viable society.

ala.org/sustainrt
# Libraries for Sustainability webinars: Participants

## Webinar Participation by the Numbers

Data collected by 8/01/2015

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<th>Webinar Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Total Registrants</th>
<th>Live Participants</th>
<th>Recording Views</th>
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<td>June 12, 2012</td>
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Libraries for Sustainability webinars: Participating countries

A GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE!

The majority of registrants are from the USA and Canada. But we also had people registered from around the globe!

Community of Practice Model:

- Common passion and interests
- Shared practices
- Joint troubleshooting
- Access to expertise
- Leadership opportunities
- Create, share and steward knowledge
- Social fabric and sense of belonging
Resolution on the Importance of Sustainable Libraries

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. recognizes the important and unique role libraries play in wider community conversations about resiliency, climate change, and a sustainable future and begins a new era of thinking sustainably in order to consider the economic, environmental and socially equitable viability of choices made on behalf of the association;

2. enthusiastically encourages activities by itself, its membership, library schools and state associations to be proactive in their application of sustainable thinking in the areas of their facilities, operations, policy, technology, programming, partnerships and library school curricula; and

3. directs the ALA Executive Director to pursue sustainable choices when planning conferences and meetings and to actively promote best practices of sustainability through ALA publications, research and educational opportunities to reach our shared goal of vital, visible and viable libraries for the future.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Sunday, June 28, 2015, in San Francisco, California

Keith Michael Fiels
Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council
SustainRT: Next Steps

- Expand vision based on *Community of Practice*
- Create mentoring system
- Offer input to LIS Accreditation Task Force
- Interface with more ALA groups
- Interface with state, regional, international library groups
Upcoming Opportunities

• **Online course:**
The Sustainability Movement on Campus: A Library Action Plan for Engagement (July 2016)

• **Conference:**
IFLA/ENSULIB (Columbus, Ohio, August 2016)

• **Colloquium:**
“YOU NEVER CHANGE THINGS BY FIGHTING THE EXISTING REALITY. TO CHANGE SOMETHING, BUILD A NEW MODEL THAT MAKES THE EXISTING MODEL OBSOLETE.”

- BUCKMINSTER FULLER
Reflective Exercise

Wait to hear the tone before writing.

What do I need
to catalyze meaningful sustainability action in my workplace?

Write for 20 secs...

If I had THAT, then what would I have? Write for 20 seconds...

And if I had THAT, then what would I have? Write just one or two words.
Questions & Discussion

Madeleine Charney
mcharney@library.umass.edu
Recommended Reading

Ecology, Economy, Equity: The Path to a Carbon-neutral Library - Mandy Henk

Focus on Educating for Sustainability: Toolkit for Academic Libraries – Maria Jankowska, Ed.

The Green Library: The Challenge of Environmental Sustainability – Petra Hauke, Ed.

The Green Library Planner: What Every Librarian Needs to Know Before Starting to Build or Renovate - Mary M. Carr

Greening Libraries – Monika Antonelli, Ed.

The Greening of America’s Libraries - Mary M. Carr and Steven L. Carr

http://works.bepress.com/charney_madeleine/69/


http://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/lib_articles/465
