High impact leadership roles for the 21st century academic librarian

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Introduction

- University of Washington
  - Dean of the Information School (iSchool)
  - Chair Board of Deans and Chancellors
- Chair the Information School Caucus
Information Schools

- What is an iSchool?
- What does an iSchool do?
- Why is this important?

Leadership roles for the 21st century academic librarian
The Interaction of Information, Technology, & People
The defining characteristics of iSchools include:

- an interest in the relationship between information, technology, and people;
- a commitment to learning and understanding the role of information in human endeavors;
- a recognition that expertise in all forms of information is required for progress in science, business, education, and culture; and
- a belief that this expertise must include understanding of the uses and users of information, as well as information technologies and their applications.
Human Engagements with Information and Technology

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We facilitate, support and

enrich these engagements
Why is this important?

- Effective human engagements with information and technology
  - Learning
  - Problem solving
  - Innovation
  - Discovery
  - Decision making
  - Fun

- Leadership, human flourishing, community development and growth
How?

- Through academic programs
  - preparing information specialists with a repertoire of professional interventions that impact each component of the information life cycle – creation to use
  - Informatics, MLIS, MSIM and Ph.D. in Information Science

- Through service
  - informing our professional and scientific communities
  - leading and advocating for the information field

- Through scholarship, creative work and research
Faculty Disciplinary Areas.

- Business/management
- Computer Science
- Engineering
- Health Sciences
- Information Science
- Psychology
- Information Technology
- Library Science
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Law
- Anthropology
We design solutions to information challenges

- We design, build, augment, and evaluate technologies, systems, and services that help people find and use the information they need to do their work, to make good decisions, and to flourish professionally and personally.

We prepare information leaders and innovators
University research and education is challenged to confront the big issues facing our world – energy, the environment, global health, mass urbanization, etc. These issues are:

- **Interdisciplinary**
- **Data centric**
- **Global**
- **Multi-lifespan**
University academic and research initiatives emphasizing the need for interdisciplinary approaches to complex problems

Trend towards the blurring of barriers between disciplines

Funding agencies supporting large scale interdisciplinary studies
Academic librarians are trans-disciplinary:

- Their skills bridge disciplines
- They manage information so that it can flow across the spaces that separate fields of practice and expertise.
- They are experts in the synthesis and presentation of information critical to the work of complex teams.
Academic librarians can leverage and promote their expertise in information management, organization, design, dissemination, synthesis, presentation, project management and team building.
Data centric

- Data collection and knowledge generation in the physical, environmental and health sciences is transformed
- Increasingly data-rich
  - Environmental sensors
  - Vast storage and data processing capacity
Academic librarians can:

- Facilitate e-sciences – help to organize, manage, and transfer large and complex data sets for ongoing discovery
- Support the cumulative processes of scientific enquiry and discovery - capture
- Provide access for the multiple disciplines that apply these data to discovery and new knowledge
Information provision and dissemination is global

- Impacts, benefits, challenges and issues cross national, political, ethnic and cultural boundaries
Global Leadership Roles

- Academic librarians can:
  - Design and manage information systems that accommodate global perspectives
  - Champion the perceptions and uses of information across cultural and ethnic groups
  - Value and accommodate the needs and perspectives of a diverse (world-wide) community of users
Global online information systems must be secure
  - Information assurance

Academic librarians can:
  - Provide users with secure, low risk, online information interactions
  - Explore, promote, and manage the issues of human values, privacy, ethical use, and public policy that will ensure and promote secure information systems
Online education and e-learning

- Information intensive and global
- New pedagogies, new opportunities, re-envisioning universities and information provision for education
Global leadership roles

Academic librarians can:

- Collaborate in research and practice developing new applications and pedagogies for online education and e-learning
- Experiment with and validate new techniques

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Multi Lifespan Leadership Roles

- Need to evaluate, validate, justify and advocate the impact, benefit, and quality of
  - Professional practices and interventions
  - Information services and resources
  - Information systems
Academic librarians need to establish a culture of assessment and evaluation
- Develop effective metrics and techniques for measuring and validating the impact of information provision, services and systems

Measure and articulate the value of information in educational and professional settings
A new generation of information users who learn, communicate, read, write and multitask differently – digital natives

Academic librarians can:

- Study the new generation of information users and learners
- Inform the university community
Digitally created information

- What must we preserve?
- How do we preserve?
- How will future generations access and use these documents?
Multi Lifespan Leadership Roles

- Academic librarians can:
  - Develop policies and techniques to ensure that digital information artifacts are preserved for the long term.
  - And are challenged to develop information systems that embed human values and support the resolution of global challenges extending beyond a single human lifespan.
Thank you