Here Comes the Future: Embedding Library Leaders of Tomorrow

Introduction

Through an IMLS grant the University of Missouri has provided 20 masters students with the opportunity to be embedded within university libraries under the guidance of library leaders.

Making it Work: Necessary Elements

- **Funding**: Stipends for student tuition, work, and/or travel
- **Staff support**: Mentors in leadership position, Communication, Flexibility in workflow (training)
- **Plan of Action**: Educational outcomes, Professional development, Institutional support for duration of program
- **Receptiveness**: Open to innovation and ideas of students
- **Participation**: Cooperation between departments in library

A Mutually Beneficial Relationship: Embedding LIS Students within Libraries

**Student Benefits**

- **Access** to library administrators
- **Professional experience** through an early introduction to library associations and conferences
- **Unparalleled opportunities for networking** by becoming involved with departments and administration
- **An understanding** of how the library functions as a whole and within university
- **Attend and present at library meetings**
- **Ability to participate in committees**, generating ideas and providing input
- **Opportunities to show initiative**, including following through with the planning and implementation of ideas generated to foster future library progress

**Library Benefits**

- **Fresh approaches**
- **Enthusiasm**
- **Mentors gain an increased awareness** of their organizational and leadership skills
- **Skills**: Fellows bring in **enhance projects** and further ideas
- **Work/assistance** provided by the Fellows
- ** Opportunity to create courses**
- **Understanding of what is needed for the profession to progress/survive**
- **Increased awareness** on campus of Library Science education
- **Helping libraries to identify weaknesses**
Forming a Foundation for Future Library Leadership

- Presents an occasion to **plan professional events** and hold meetings
- Imparts a **practical experience** reinforcing classroom instruction
- Supports a **broad overview of the library** through experience in each department
- Generates **greater knowledge** of the library profession and allows for **more responsibility and less supervision** than a semester-long practicum requirement
- Inspires Fellows to become **more invested in the profession**
- Emphasizes the **importance of collaboration and communication** both within the library and the wider university community
- Grants opportunity to **develop administrative documents** as a committee
- **Develops relationships** with peers that will last throughout professional lives

Lessons Learned

**Communication Breakdown**
- Communication between campuses hampered by distance
- Goals, expectations and guidelines need to be fully articulated to all parties before commencing

**Dancing in the Dark**
- Essential to define role of Fellows within library and departments
- Maximizing success of workshops requires effective event planning

**Getting to Know You**
- Networking across state crucial
- Establishing opportunities to become acquainted during workshops vital

**On the Road Again**
- Gain knowledge on making the most conferences
- Learn to collaborate on conference presentations
- Experience a variety of professional conferences

Fellowship Website: [www.alf.missouri.edu](http://www.alf.missouri.edu)  
Poster Archived at: [http://hdl.handle.net/10355/10084](http://hdl.handle.net/10355/10084)