Academic and Research Collaborative

Annual Action Plan Update
2012

MISSION

The Academic and Research Collaborative (ARC) is a coalition of academic, public and special libraries in central Massachusetts that have research collections, working together to facilitate the sharing of resources and services for the benefit of their users.

VISION

ARC inspires library staff members to innovate for the benefit of their users. Our librarians will be seen by their institutions as experts in information access. By collaborating and with the use of traditional and emerging technologies, ARC libraries will provide world-class services and resources.

VALUES

The Academic & Research Collaborative believes that:

- Users of ARC libraries deserve quality services and collections.

- Complementarity in member institutions' size and character contributes to the strength of the organization.

- The sense of equity within ARC does not depend on equal exchange of resources.

- Each member library is responsible for a collection that supports self-development, education, and scholarly research for its users.

- ARC has an essential role to play in providing to its constituency effective access to and utilization of information.

- Collaborative efforts are intrinsic to the successful delivery of information to ARC libraries' users.

- Cooperative research and development in application of information technology augment service and realize cost efficiencies.

- Staff development and interaction enhance the quality of service each library provides.

- ARC membership increases the value of each library to its own users.

Goals/Objectives/ Action Items		Who	When	Assessment
Goal 1	**Review ARC vision and mission and update as necessary to reflect the current Massachusetts library environment.**	Steering Committee	March 1, 2011	
Objective A	ARC-wide participation in identifying and deciding on future organizational and fiscal options, make necessary recommendations and negotiate arrangements as necessary.	Steering Committee; ARC ACs and IGs, membership	Fall 2010 up to 3/1/2011	Discussion and recommendations to be posted on ARC-lists.
Objective B	Notify LYRASIS of ARC's decision for FY 2012.	Steering Committee	March 1, 2011	
Objective C	Plan to incorporate results of work from (A) above in ARC's FY2012 strategic plan for MA Board of Library Commissioners.	Steering Committee	Spring/Summer 2011	New FY2012 Strategic Plan
Goal 2	**Energize ARC Through Staff and Leadership Development.**			
Objective A	Continue to offer professional development opportunities.			
	1. Periodically conduct continuing education surveys to identify staff needs.	ARC members	Ongoing	Written report with summary of activities and participant's comments*
	2. Work with the professional development advisory committee, develop offerings as appropriate.	Prof. Dev. Adv. Comm.; Other interest groups	Ongoing	Written report with summary of activities and participant's comments*
	3. Maintain and promote wiki or other types of WEB2 software to list professional development opportunities.	Prof. Dev. Adv. Comm.; ARC members	Ongoing	Annual statistical usage report from Prof Dev Comm.

Goal 2   Energize ARC Through Staff and Leadership Development. (cont'd)

Objective B   Use technology to enable all ARC members to participate in ARC programs, regardless of time or place by delivering continuing education opportunities online.

1. Explore other remote and web-based access to ARC programming.	Prof Dev and Comm. Committees	Spring 2012	Written report with hardware and software recommendations*
2. Implement other pilot programs with one or two ARC Interest Groups.	Selected IG representatives, to be determined	Fall 2012	Summary of pilot projects with participant's comments
3. Promote MA Library System programs to ARC staff.	Prof Dev and Comm. Committees	Ongoing	

Objective C   Establish a formal orientation program for new staff of ARC member libraries.

1. Review and maintain a set of procedures/workflow to contact new staff hires.	Communications Committee	Ongoing	The Committee will issue annual reports*

Objective D   Develop a mentoring program

1. Designate Steering Committee members to welcome new directors and offer them mentoring opportunity with ARC director of their choice.	ARC Chair and Steering Committee	As new directors are hired	ARC Chair to record early contact with new directors

Goal 3   Demonstrate ARC's Impact on the Community.

Objective A	Promote and demonstrate ARC's expertise in information literacy and assessment.			
	1. Investigate the sponsorship of an information literacy assessment symposium for the greater ARC community, including audiences such as faculty members and administrators.	Reference IG	Sp 2012	Planning has begun
	2. Hold the symposium.	Ad hoc symposium planning committee; Reference IG	Sp 2012	Survey feedback with participant comments
Objective B	Promote and demonstrate ARC expertise in cutting edge technology.			
	1. Develop and promote workshops on emerging technologies.	Prof Dev Interest Group	Ongoing	
Objective C	Promote ARC's traditional resource sharing services.			
	1. Develop an Access Services Interest Group (which will include Resources Sharing).	Access Services IG	Completed June 2010	
	2. Assure all resource sharing library's staff is aware of emerging developments/software.		Ongoing	Reports to be posted to the wiki or blog
	3. Review existing resources sharing/cross borrowing services to identify areas for improvement.	Access Services	Ongoing	Reports to be posted to the wiki or blog

Goal 3   Demonstrate ARC's Impact on the Community. (cont'd)

Objective D   Investigate collaborative opportunities with other libraries and other organizations in central Massachusetts.

1. Identify constituencies for promoting ARC libraries, librarians and services, internally and externally.	Steering Comm. and Communications IG	Ongoing	
2. Identify new collaborative opportunities with organizations such as COWC, MA Library System, museum associations, high schools, public libraries, historical societies and others.	Steering Comm.; all Interest Groups	Ongoing	

Goal 4   Strengthen Sharing and Collaboration Among ARC Member Libraries.

Objective A	1. Maintain and promote centralized location/clearing house for access to ARC members' online documents: a. Research aids, b. Policies, planning documents, etc.	Steering Comm.; Communications Comm.; other ARC Advisory Comm. and IGs	Ongoing	Email reminders to ARC membership and groups throughout year to send relevant links to Web maintainer at Holy Cross
	2. Publish and update ARC resources WEB page.	Communications Comm.	Ongoing	Collect annual statistics and comments*
Objective B	Continue to provide interpersonal networking opportunities.			
	1. Plan and implement at least one social opportunity each year.	Steering Committee	Spring 2010	Survey done 2010.

Goal 4   Strengthen Sharing and Collaboration Among ARC Member Libraries (cont'd)

Objective C   Continue to seek opportunities to develop and expand ARC members' collections to serve the collective needs of the users.

1. Determine an equitable cost sharing method for the Purchase of databases or other computer services.	ARC Directors; Coll. Management	Spring 2011	New subscriptions
2. Seek to expand cost effective access to resources by Negotiating contracts in collaboration with other consortia such as MCCLPHEI or WALDO		Ongoing	

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