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

Sustainable Society

People

Planet

Economy
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
1,833 people died
$108 billion in damage
Millions left homeless
Slow response to aid most vulnerable communities (poor, people of color, elderly)

“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

Rebekkah Smith Aldridge. LLAMA Thought Leaders Webinar, p.18.
http://www.ala.org/llama/sites/ala.org.llama/files/content/Rebekkah%20Smith%20Aldrich_LLAMA%20Thought%20Leader%202015_0.pdf
http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/statementspols/corevalues
Library Professionals: Sustainability Advocates

Natural systems thinkers
Transdisciplinary
Accustomed to riding waves of change
Truth seekers
Community builders
Stewards
Providers of neutral space
And perceived limitations.
Perceived Limitations to Sustainability Action

- Time
- Funding
- Isolation
- “It’s not in my job description”
- Overwhelmed by climate change
Consider departments beyond the environmental sciences (e.g., Arts, Engineering, Literature, Resistance/Peace studies, Psychology, Religion)
List of international sustainability higher education coalitions:
Talloires signatories: http://www.ulsf.org/programs_talloires_signatories.html
Second Nature signatories: http://secondnature.org/who-we-are/network/

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!
www.betterworldbooks.com – donate, host a drop box
terracycle.com
Green buildings:
Colorado State University
Concordia University
Emory University
San Jose State University
UC Santa Barbara
Green Spaces
Texas State University

Planning & Implementation

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

Key Elements of the Proposal
- How this fits 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 systems

Permission: Lisa A. Ancelet
Rooftop Garden
University of California Santa Barbara Davidson Library
LEED Gold
Seed libraries:
Arizona State University
Auburn University
Hampshire College
San Francisco University

Green teams:
American University
East Carolina University
Michigan State University
Penn State University

Unique Collections
- Seed library
- Tools
- Kill-a-Watt voltage meters
- Bike pumps
- Yoga mats
- Maker space kit
Other examples include: Auburn University, Arizona State, San Francisco University and many public libraries in the U.S.
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

Book to Action: http://www.library.ca.gov/lds/getinvolved/booktoaction/
Inviting feedback can be as simple as big sheets of blank paper on the wall with a question, “What do think would make the library more sustainable?”
Yale University Library Sustainability Action Plan
March 2016

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

Also, see model for Action Plan in Ecology, Economy, Equity: The Path to a Carbon-neutral Library, page 8.
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 on Your Campus?

- Support sustainable agriculture and eat fresh, healthy food.
- Promote safe, local food.
- Harvest excess produce, which benefits local food banks.
- Foster a sense of community and belonging.
- Encourage student involvement in community service.

Preparation

- Select a CSA provider and sign up for the program.
- Visit the college library to sign up for the program.
- Promote the program through social media and email.

Getting Started

- Meet with students, faculty, and staff to set up the program.
- Plan events and activities to promote the program.

Looking for more information on how to start a CSA on your campus?

Permission: Catherine Wong and Kathryn Geoffrion Scannell
http://amherstuprising.com/demands.html
Example of online leadership quiz:

Green teams:
American University
East Carolina University
Michigan State University
Penn State University
Example of Sustainability Collection Development Policy:
https://content.lib.utah.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/sustain/id/0
University of Michigan

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.

Permission: Marcy Bailey
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

GoogleHangouts can accommodate large numbers
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

https://projectarcc.org/
Critlib Unconference
Portland State University

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

Sustainable Development Goals:

http://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/critlib/
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

Green Schools List: https://listserv.brown.edu/?SUBED1=GRNSCH-L&A=1
ENSULIB http://www.ifla.org/about-environmental-sustainability-and-libraries
Going Green @ Your Library: https://greeningyourlibrary.wordpress.com/
SustainRT: www.ala.org/sustainrt
http://www.sustainabilitytest.org/en/sustainability_home
http://www.international-sustainable-campus-network.org/
Sustainable Development Goals:
300+ sustainability courses (addressing economics, equity and environment)

Programs:
Sustainable Food and Farming
Sustainable Entrepreneurship
Sustainability Science Masters program
Graduate studies in Sustainable Building Systems

Schools:
School of Earth and Sustainability
School of Built Environment/Environmental Design (proposed)
“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
Launched in 2012
Funds books, media, databases, speakers, events, Undergraduate Sustainability Research Award, Sustainability Curriculum Fellowship
Winner of the Gale Cengage Learning Financial Development Award:
Green Practices

- Green Monstah e-waste recycling center
- Green Office Program, all 26 stories of main library
- Café: organic food, composting, compostable utensils
Speakers:
Annie Leonard, *The Story of Stuff* (Earth Day 2013)
Dr. Robert Bullard the “Father of Environmental Justice” (Earth Day 2014)
Josh Fox, *Gaslands* (Earth Day 2015)

Films:
*A Place at the Table* (Student Farm Enterprise)
*Just Eat It* (Dining Services)
*Disruption* (Mothers Out Front)
*INHABIT* (Permaculture Initiative)
*This Changes Everything* (Sustainable Living course)
*The Wisdom to Survive: Climate Change, Capitalism and Community* (Environmental Conservation, Service Learning, Psychology of Peace & Violence Program)
Sustainable World Coalition offered me unlimited numbers of The Sustainable World Sourcebook.
Professional development mini-grant program
Connects 10 faculty members with subject librarians each year
Expands sustainability across the curriculum
Emphasis on integrating library resources, services
Hosted in Teaching Commons at main library

Librarians and faculty:
Co-created assignments and online course guides
Co-taught library-related sessions
Shared syllabi and resources on Moodle page
Expanded the community of sustainability teachers
Deepened students’ sustainability understanding
Improved the quality of papers and projects

Meetings include:
Kick-off orientation, including bike tour (full day, one evening)
Teaching demonstrations
Pedagogy support
Library resource demonstrations
Guest speakers
Discussions
Participation by 18 disciplines over three years:
Building and Construction Technology
Chemistry
College of Engineering
College of Natural Science
Communication
Economics
Education
Environmental Conservation
Isenberg School of Management
Journalism
Judaic and Near Eastern Studies
Landscape Architecture
Public Policy
Regional Planning
Resource Economics
Stockbridge School
University without Walls
Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies

Genesis: “Mapping Sustainability Education at UMass Amherst”
Co-sponsored with The Institute for Teaching Excellence and Faculty Development and Sustainable UMass.
Evolved from education subcommittee of campus sustainability committee
Discussion series hosted at the W.E.B. Du Bois Library
Attended by 50 faculty members/19 disciplines
Student Learning Outcomes developed
White paper written
Faculty development program born
Faculty and librarians at play

See: James Rojas, urban planner - http://www.placeit.org/
http://scholarworks.umass.edu/sustainableumass_studentshowcase/
$1,000 first place
$500 second place
$250 honorable mention
• 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

http://scholarworks.umass.edu/sustainableumass/
Hosted at main library
Part of Earth Day 2015
Low cost (just snacks for participants)
“Check out” a “living book” for 15 minutes of informal one-on-one conversation
Examples: Army cadet, belly dancer, someone living with Crohn’s disease, mushroom farmer, nudist, Puerto Rican living with cerebral palsy, rabbi, vegan, and witch.
Partners: Counseling Center, Center for Multicultural Advancement and Student Success, Service Learning, Office of Religious & Spiritual Life
More info: http://humanlibrary.org/
Year-long discussion series with plans to continue
Reflective writing exercise based on Is This How You Feel?: http://www.isthisshowyoufeel.com/
Student Learning Outcomes for UMass sustainability courses:
The student will demonstrate knowledge about...
- Systems thinking
- Disciplines across the university
- Local sustainability issues
- Personal agency and professional responsibility
- Civic engagement
- 21st century national and global challenges
Membership up 30% this year
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

Model popularized by Etienne Wegner
Other benefits:
Confidence building
Enjoyment
Meaningful participation

Members manage knowledge efficiently and share and steward that knowledge.
Members form a living repository for that knowledge
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

Resolution recommendations in process:
Advisory Task Force to ALA Executive Board
Ongoing column in American Libraries
Written report to 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:**

Sustainability course: http://libraryjuiceacademy.com/029-sustainability.php
IFLA: http://2016.ifla.org/
“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

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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