What is Library Issues?

Library Issues is a bimonthly publication begun in 1980. Each 4 to 6 page issue appears in print and online versions and includes one or two articles written by practicing academic librarians or by experts in related professions. Library Issues is designed to present, in a concise form, library and information-related issues that should be of concern to campus administrators, faculty, library advisory committees, and other campus constituents.

The Objective

Library Issues serves as a vehicle for communicating current trends and challenges in academic librarianship to colleagues outside the library. Articles present a balanced perspective of current or controversial topics; they do not pretend to offer campus-specific solutions. Instead, Library Issues strives to clarify not persuade, to present facts not opinions, to facilitate communication not advocate positions.

Online Access

Being able to access Library Issues online is a significant value-added feature. Articles appear on our website before you actually receive the print version. Every subscriber to the print version receives password or IP address access to LI Online.

Visit our web site at: http://www.LibraryIssues.com. See titles and topics covered since 1996. Articles may include additional information, comments, late-breaking developments, and links to other sites, that cannot be accommodated in the print version.

Pass It On

Our editorial and business policies are specifically designed to facilitate the use of Library Issues as a communications tool:

- Articles minimize jargon to enhance readability for those outside the field of librarianship.
- Articles are short (four to six pages) so that, when asked by library staff to read a pertinent article, a campus administrator may actually find time to do so.
- Subscriptions are very reasonably priced at $84 per year, $144 for two years. The price includes access to the online version.
- Additional copies sent to the same address and paid for at the same time are just $26 each.
- Subscribers have permission to photocopy, edit, reprint, or forward articles free of charge for distribution on their own campus.

How Librarians are Using Library Issues

Library Issues can help you make your case. Here are some suggestions you might try:

- Offer subscriptions to the senate library committee members.
- Distribute copies of particularly relevant articles at faculty meetings.
- Bring pertinent articles to the attention of the provost’s office; with IP address access, just provide the link to Library Issues.com.
- Reprint entire articles (or edit them to suit your needs) in staff or campus newsletters.
- Increase communication among library staff by soliciting reactions to certain articles.
Modest Investment Can Reap Large Rewards

If even a single article per year helps library staff present their case strongly enough to elicit a positive administrative decision—to fund a sought-after program or to reconsider cutting a threatened service—the library, its staff, and its users succeed. A one-year subscription to LI is only $84; this investment can be leveraged into numerous benefits.

(The July 2007 issue, for example, addresses the issues surrounding the need for a reference desk. A college library director recently commented to one of the editors of Library Issues that her first instinct was to just file it away and forget it ever came in the mail. Then she said she decided to read it and actually was swayed by some of the discussion points. She ended up sharing it with her staff and following up with a staff meeting about the future of their reference service.)

Articles Appearing in Recent Issues of LI

The Merged Organization: Confronting the Service Overlap between Libraries and Computer Centers by Tom Kirk

Wikipedia and the Challenge of Read/Write Culture by Barbara Fister

An Emerging Model for the Undergraduate Library by Mark Tucker

Natural Disasters in the Academic Library by William Miller

Off to a Good Start: Foundations for Strong CAO—Library Director Relationships by Larry Hardesty and Mignon Adams

Stop Having Fun and Start Being Quiet: Noise Management in the Academic Library by Steven Bell

Got an Issue You’d Like to See Explored?

We’re constantly on the lookout for hot topics. And of course, general comments and suggestions are always welcome. Contact us at: editor@libraryissues.com

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About the Editors

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