Growing from Within: From Art History to Urology - All Liaisons Working Together to be the Best Team

Kelly A. Thormodson  
*University of Iowa*

Kathy L. Magarrell  
*University of Iowa*

Ericka A. Raber  
*University of Iowa*

*Please see article for additional authors.*
Growing from Within: From Art History to Urology – All Liaisons Working Together to be the Best Team

Kelly Thormodson, Kathy Magarrell, Ericka Raber – University of Iowa
Jonathan Koffel – University of Minnesota
About Us

- 30,000+ students, ~15,000 faculty & staff and a 734-bed teaching/research hospital with over 750 residents
- 30+ liaisons and bibliographers
- Main Library, Hardin Library and five branches

Photo courtesy of: http://www.uiowa.edu/oldcap/
Overview

- Increase our interdisciplinary work together
- Create a cohesive university wide liaison program
- Successes and challenges
Pre-2009

- Standing committees and task forces
- No real sense of community
- Easy to make assumptions
- Easy to miss out on commonalities and like-challenges
Iowa Framework

- Created by administration in conjunction with liaisons
- A guide in identifying priorities and specifying activities
- New expectations for liaisons, particularly in scholarly communication
- Changing/expanded roles for liaisons

Iowa Research Online (IRO) Iowa Framework for Liaisons: http://ir.uiowa.edu/lib_pubs/120
Site for liaisons to increase communication (SharePoint)
Includes everyone with liaison responsibilities
Includes librarians who would benefit from communication with the liaisons
Informal Liaison Meetings

- Regular informal meetings for liaisons to share information
- Share ideas, identify issues, and work to address challenges
- “Unmeetings”
  - Default search screens within EBSCOhost
  - Feedback to IT department on resource discovery system
  - Developed guidelines and recommendations for tutorials
Liaison Events

- Administrators were talking about the interdisciplinary changes occurring on campus - cluster-hires
- Liaison Events in order to give the liaisons time to get to know each other in a fun environment.
  - Team Trivia
  - Liaison Olympics
  - Movie Night

*The events are voluntary and no University funds were used.*
Liaisons were surveyed
Spring 2012
- Overwhelming support of and appreciation for the informal structure of liaison meetings
- Responses to the liaison events were positive
Conclusion

- We have had successes and challenges
- Still need to improve
- We will keep working towards building a better team
Questions?
Thank You!

Kelly

Kathy

Ericka

Jonathan