

ACRL Delaware Valley Chapter, Spring Program 2018
Power of Partnerships

Session Report

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Keynote Presentation: Partners, Partners, and more Partners

Our keynote speaker was Cheryl Middleton, the 2018 Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) president. She came to us from Oregon State University (OSU) where she is the Associate University Librarian for Research and Scholarly Communication.

Cheryl started by telling us a little bit about what ACRL does. ACRL's primary focus is to help academic and research librarians and offers conferences, roadshows, and e-learning opportunities to realize that mission.

Cheryl next delved into library partnerships. She started out by defining partnerships and why they are important to libraries. Whether it is a library to library; library to academic department; or library community partnership, we should think of partnerships in terms of how they can benefit students.

Cheryl described some partnerships at her own institution, Oregon State University. As an example of a library to library partnership, she detailed her institution's partnership with University of Oregon. They partner on journal collections; they provide library carpentry workshops for Oregon librarians; and they have a joint portal for teaching and research called "Oregon Digital". She also spoke about a couple of library partnerships with academic departments. Oregon State has an undergraduate research and writing studio in which librarians, writing faculty, and TAs have partnered for over 20 years. The library also partners with the College of Engineering and the student association to provide access to a 3D printer. Finally, Cheryl told the audience about some OSU library partnerships with the community. The OSU Human Service Resource Center has a textbook lending library which the library helped create. The center received a grant to purchase textbooks, and the library helped develop policies as well as tracks inventory and checkouts. The OSU library also provides child care for student parents. They converted a conference room to a child-friendly space called "Our Little Village" where students can drop off their children for 2-3 hours while they study in the library.

In the same vein as individual library partnerships, Cheryl described the way in ACRL partners with other organizations to benefit its members. ACRL liaises with 19 other professional and sister organizations. In particular, ACRL partners with the Public Library Association (PLA) on "Project Outcome" which provides libraries with resources and tools to create surveys and analyze outcome data. ACRL also partners with the Association for Institutional Research (AIR)

and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) on “Assessment in Action” to strengthen data-driven assessment efforts.

Cheryl summed up by describing the characteristics of successful partnerships. For a partnership to work, there needs to be trust on both sides; clear roles and responsibilities; strong contributions; and an expectation of success.