Library Involvement in Campus-wide Accreditation

Traditional Roles (still needed!)
• Collections Data
• Budget Information
• Library Usage Statistics

New Roles
• Collaborate in developing the Self-Study
• Coordinate the Resource Room (physical and virtual)
• Participate in campus-wide planning for the site visit
• Represent the library on campus-wide task forces and committees

Benefits to the University
• Librarians view committee work as outreach activity and are more willing participants
• Librarians are experts at gathering and organizing information
• Librarians are interested in the entire institution, not just their own discipline or area of study

Ideas for Demonstrating Value and Increasing Involvement
• Find out when the next review will be and target for three years ahead of that time to volunteer services
• The accreditation process serves to highlight areas where improvement is needed as well as a way to showcase the best of the institution
• University administration is an important user population along with everyone else
  • Allocate significant staff resources to university accreditation
  • Allocate technical services resources and space

Offer expertise and organizational skills
• Documentation needed to support and supplement the self-study is considerable; hundreds and perhaps thousands of documents
• Librarians are skilled at organizing and cross-referencing this information
• Offer to archive the information; institutional self studies and captured documents are excellent and relatively compact sources of information about the campus
• Overwhelmed staff and administration will be grateful for assistance

Offer to host the Resource Room (virtual and physical)
• Site team visitors will see more of the library facilities
• Hospitality is appreciated by the site team and your administration

Benefits to the Library
• Increases visibility and networking
• Provides forum for displaying strengths and areas where improvement is needed
• Librarians learn more about the campuses they serve
• Librarians gain a foothold in campus-wide efforts and exert greater influence on the institution’s decisions

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Photograph of Hale Library from the cover of K-State’s Self-Study Document, April 2012